

PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
Of the
Suffolk County Legislature

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **November 30, 2004**.

Members Present:

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Chairperson

Legislator Pete O'Leary • Vice•Chair

Legislator David Bishop

Legislator William Lindsay

Legislator Andrew Crecca

Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Also In Attendance:

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan • Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Doug Sutherland • Aide to Legislator Carpenter

Linda Bay • Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Ed Hogan • Aide to Legislator Nowick

Terry Pearsall • Aide to Legislator Lindsay

Tom Carroll • Aide to Legislator Bishop

Eric Brown • Aide to Legislator Schneiderman

Ben Zwirn • Assistant County Executive

Adam Santiago • County Executive Assistant

Walter Denzler • Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Donald Sullivan • Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Alan Otto • Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Joseph Rubacka • Deputy Warden/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Richard Dormer • Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department
Aristedes Mojica • Deputy Inspector/Chief Moore's Office/SCPD
Dave Fischler • Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Joe Williams • Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Tom O'Hara • Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Dr. Jeanne Alicandro • Director/Emergency Medical Services/DHS
David Brenner • Chair/REMSSCo
Edward Stapleton • REMSSCo
Carl S. Goodman • Suffolk REMAC
Andrea Golinsky • New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Assoc
Robert Franz • President/Huntington Community First•Aid Squad
Pat Mansir • Councilwoman/Town of East Hampton
Debbie Eppel • Public Information Office
Tom Muratore • Vice•President/Police Benevolent Association
Lynne Bizzarro • Chief Deputy County Attorney
Dr. Mark Henry • Chair/Department of Emergency Medicine.
Stony Brook University Hospital
Roy Gross • Suffolk County SPCA
Gary Rogers • Suffolk County SPCA
Martin Griffin • Chief/Hampton Bays Ambulance
Craig Zitlik • Town of Southampton Safety Officer
Linda Kabot • Councilwoman/Town of Southampton
Drew Silverman • Chair/SC Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission
Anthony LaFerrera • Town of Babylon Fire Chiefs
Thomas Cronogue • Wyandanch/Wheatley Heights Ambulance
Bill Schnell • Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs Association
Anthony Sce • Chairman/Crime Stoppers
Loring Miller • Board of Directors for Crime Stoppers
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 1:07 P.M.*)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Good afternoon and welcome to the Public Safety and Public Information Committee. Everyone is busy chatting and visiting. Okay, we will begin and I would ask Legislator Lindsay to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salutation

Thank you very much. We have a bit of •• we have cards, we have some scheduled speakers and we have people who have commitments, so I think what we're going to do today •• I know the Police Commissioner has a wake he needs to attend, so I said as a courtesy I would like to have you come up first, Commissioner Dormer. We had had ••

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. We had had some requests to get an update on what is happening with the Crime Stoppers Program and I had asked the Commissioner to come down and give us that update, and we also have some people here from Crime Stoppers today, in addition to the Suffolk County SPCA. So Commissioner, if you would begin.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, and I think it might be informative for everybody if I give an overview of the Crime Stoppers Program, the way it's set up right now in the Police Department.

We have four police officers who are assigned to Crime Stoppers and two civilian personnel. The officers work Monday through Friday 8 to 4 and 4 to 12, two shifts; when they're not in, the Public Information Officers who work with them take the calls, they both mix together and they work in headquarters. Crime Stoppers personnel tell me that they receive 30 to 50 tips per month and for the month of October we had 14 arrests related to Crime Stoppers information. When people call in to Crime Stoppers they give their name and they remain anonymous if they so wish, either way they're assigned a Crime Stoppers number starting with a CS and then the number in sequence as they come in. Callers only get one number, it doesn't matter how many times they call in, that number stays with them.

The officer asks a number of questions when they call in, description, subject, where they reside, weapons, dangerous animals, all the information that officers or detectives would need if they had to respond to a location. Then the Crime Stopper officer checks the subject through all available department systems, Soundex, Criminal IOS, the DMV, Probation, pawn, parole, all the data bases are checked. The information received by the Crime Stopper officer is entered into the computer system _Tipsoft_ for case management and tracking purposes, then they fill out a sheet, it's called a tip sheet and it contains all the information that the person is giving them. If the officer believes that the information is time sensitive, they will immediately reach out to the detective squad or the people handling the case and notify them so they can do an immediate follow•up.

The Crime Stoppers Board, which is civilians, maintains an account of approximately \$70,000 as I speak •• and you may have some people from the Crime Stoppers Board here that can either verify that, the accuracy of that •• and it's filed in North Fork Savings Bank in Patchogue. The Crime Stoppers Board is made of eleven members; I'm not going to go into the names of them, you probably know them or they've submitted a list. The rewards are issued anonymously by the bank based on that number that's given to the person that turns in the information. The bank itself administers the money, not the Police Department; they come to the bank and give their number and then they walk out of there with their cash.

I should say that we in the Police Department think Crime Stoppers is an excellent program. The investigative division, the Detective Division tells me that Crime Stoppers assists them in difficult cases, people call in for information because of the Crime Stoppers number that goes out with news releases and press releases. I have met with the Crime Stoppers Board at one of their monthly meetings and I expressed my support to Crime Stoppers, we're going to continue the program, we think it's an excellent program. And there's no •• at this time we have no intention of disbanding the unit or removing the officers from Crime Stoppers, as it stands at this time or in the foreseeable future. I don't want to say it will never happen because knowing the business that we're in, we can't say that, so I never want to go on the record as saying that could never happen; I don't want to tie another administration to something that I said or anybody else.

If there are any other questions on the Crime Stoppers?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Commissioner, when you said you think it's a good program and, you know, you think it's excellent and you see it being there, there was a qualifier, but then you sort of conditioned it by saying you wouldn't want to tie a future administration. So can I take that to mean that during your tenure as the Commissioner that you would not recommend or encourage the County Executive to recommend that Crime stoppers be eliminated?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah. No, I would recommend that we keep Crime Stoppers.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

And the County Executive, the information I have gotten from him is that Crime Stoppers is going to stay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Well, before we go on to any other subjects, does anyone have any questions or comments for the Commissioner? Legislator O'Leary.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Good afternoon, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Good afternoon.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Have you been provided with a copy of the report that was made by Crime Stoppers with respect to their activity and their productivity over the years?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Over the years, no, I just got an update on I believe this year's activity.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. Well ••

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, I don't remember reading that over the years.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. Well, I have it here in front of me and it's apparent to me that this is a unit that's been very effective in combatting crime within the County, especially to those of your personnel who are assigned to the investigative divisions.

I'm happy to hear that you're supportive of Crime Stoppers. And you're probably well aware of the fact that I've introduced a resolution with respect to monies that are to be used to fund Crime Stoppers, and I must tell you the reason that I did this was because I was under the impression that you had given a directive that Crime Stoppers was to cease and desist from participating in any future fund•raisers.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, that's incorrect. What I found out when I came in as Police Commissioner that police officers, while on County time, were engaged in fund•raising which included working a golf tournament which was an annual event while on duty, monitoring actually the golf holes, and also personnel in the Police Department were involved in obtaining merchandise as prizes, I thought that was inappropriate, I stopped it, I said we weren't going to do it. If Crime Stoppers had to have a fund•raiser it would have to be done by off•duty officers if they wished on their own time, or Crime Stoppers personnel which is •• they're an incorporated company, they're not police, but I told them I would assist them in any way I could without utilizing taxpayer dollars to raise money, I thought that was inappropriate.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. So then you have no objection to the corporation itself continuing its fund•raising activities.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No and I told the board that when we met.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Right.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I explained exactly what I'm saying right now, I couldn't justify police officers in this day and age on police time, on County time doing fund•raising.

LEG. O'LEARY:

The figure that you had given in your statement was •• and I assume you received this from the board itself, the \$70,000 that's in the account at North Fork Savings Bank?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, we have a secretary in the office that does the paperwork for them. Now, I'm not exactly sure if she's the one that got me that information, I just asked for it and it was given to me yesterday,

I'm not sure where it came from. But we do have people in the department that are assisting Crime Stoppers, two civilians and four police officers, so it could have been any of them. But my information is that there's approximately 70,000 in the bank. Now, Crime Stoppers Board probably can give you more accurate information, if they have it.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. Well, there are members of the Crime Stoppers Board who are here and we would be happy to hear from them as to what the process and the procedure is with respect to those monies. But I was •• my main concern was that I had received some indication that you were not supportive of Crime Stoppers, but that clearly is not the case.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, I think it's a terrific program and the Detective Division loves it. We're not going to change it, they're very helpful. We've brought in some major cases, murder cases, robberies and that kind of thing, so I don't want to see it go away.

(*Legislator Losquadro entered the meeting at 1:18 P.M.*)

I did have an issue with the way the funding was done and you can see why, I'm sure you agree with me on that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yeah. No, I understand that. But I happen to be of the opinion that Crime Stoppers can do more than they are doing, and in order to do so their revenue source has to be a little bit greater than just relying on a golf outing or donations from the public, and that's one of the reasons why my resolution addresses that particular issue. I think Crime Stoppers should get into the business of, as you call it, perhaps educational awareness on the part of the public that this unit does, in fact, exist, which would make it more possible that the public being aware of the fact that if they call Crime Stoppers with tips anonymously that they can help in the solving of crimes.

I want to point out for the record, and this report is here in front of me, I think it's something that's very important that my colleagues on Public Safety should be aware of. Since its inception in 1994, Crime Stoppers has been attributed to arrests being made in 22 homicide cases; I think that's very, very important to note. Of course, that's one of the most serious crimes that our investigators in the Police Department handle, and the fact in the past 10 years, 22 homicide arrests have been affected as a result of information received from Crime Stoppers is laudable to say the least. But I think if the public is aware of the existence of this unit and the continuing existence of this unit, it would be that much more beneficial for the public participating and cooperating with the Police Department in solving these crimes; do you not agree?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, I'm glad that you and I agree on this wholeheartedly. And I think my opening statement on where we were going with the program I think stands by itself, so I don't think there's any issue here at all.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And I'm happy to agree with you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay; I made note of that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yes; that's one for the record.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

That's a couple.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

As they say, it's a step in the right direction.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, he's coming along.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

He is.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And so are you. I'm happy to hear yourself commit to this unit, it's a very worth while unit and it should stay in place.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Is there anything else related to Crime Stoppers?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I almost hate to break up the love fest here. The money in Crime Stoppers is used for the rewards?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, that's my understanding; yeah, that's utilized for rewards.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And the \$70,000 that's in the account now, is that high, low?

LEG. O'LEARY:

I don't know. If I may, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Absolutely.

LEG. O'LEARY:

That's why we have people from Crime Stoppers here who I think are more readily available.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. Would you mind, Madam Chair, if we get into that now and then have •• you know, since we started this discussion?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Actually I want to abide by my commitment to the Police Commissioner ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

•• that be able to leave. So if there are any other discussions, and certainly if he wants to stay and is able to time wise ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

I just •• I would like ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I will bring Crime Stoppers up next, okay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

All right, but I'd like to continue pursuing this subject with the Commissioner as well.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, sure, go ahead then.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Commissioner, you're aware of the bill that Legislator O'Leary has sponsored?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes, I'm aware of that.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And how does the department feel about the bill?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I mean, will the additional revenue enhance the ability of Crime Stoppers, you know, to work?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

The information I have is that maybe this should be a line item in the budget rather than taking from the General Fund; I don't know if it's legal to do that but I'm •• of course, I'm not the last say on that, but I'm getting information that there may be an issue with that. You know, in Nassau County, if I should mention, it's completely funded by donations, they don't do what we do in Suffolk, a golf tournament, that kind of thing. So, you know, I don't know if there's any other ways to raise money. I mean, that's going to be •• you know, I want Crime Stoppers to continue, but utilizing money from the General Fund, I'm not sure that it can be legally done, this is the information that I get. But that's something that will probably have to be, you know, discussed down the road with the Legislators and the legal, the Law Department in the County, I assume they'll have the last say on it. That's not my bailiwick.

LEG. LINDSAY:

So you support the concept of Crime Stoppers, you just have a question on whether this mechanism of using proceeds from a new auction is legal.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I don't know if that's legal. But if they can be funded that's fine with me, it's a terrific program, it helps the people of Suffolk County, it certainly helps the Police Department with our investigations, as I've mentioned. So the issue of funding, I don't like to get into funding, that's why I pulled our people out of fund-raising.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Any other questions on this particular topic?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Just a point for the record, Madam Chair. I'm aware of the issue that you just raised, Commissioner, with respect to a question of line item budgeting, but what we're attempting to do here is establish policy, this Legislator establishing policy that forthwith any allocations towards Crime Stoppers will be made from the proceeds of sale of surplus vehicles up to a cap of \$50,000 a year. So that's basically the substance of my proposal and there's a question which will be debated at a later date on the legality of this particular proposal.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Anything else on Crime Stoppers? All right, Commissioner, and I don't mean to blind side you and I probably should have e-mailed you or written about this, but I would just ask that perhaps for the next meeting the Crime Index Narrative that you supplied for the month of October, I was a little troubled by the number of summonses that were down in Highway Patrol; the 511 VTL summonses and the speeding summonses down 55% and 57% from the previous years. So if perhaps at the next meeting we can discuss that, I would appreciate that.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay. Yeah, that's fine, we have no problem discussing it. They go up and down every month, you know, the numbers are different, so just be aware that sometimes you'll see percentages and it can be very •• it's very informative to look at the numbers that they're based on.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Exactly.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Highway Patrol is doing an excellent job notwithstanding that monthly number, but the 511's which are the people with suspended licenses, that's a serious offense. We have about 40,000 of these outstanding in the District Court which is a huge number, so a lot of people are driving in Suffolk County with no licenses.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And according to the statistic that I'm reading from, that number for the month was down from 405 to 182 and then the speeding summonses was down from 3,410 to •• from 3,410 to 1,474, so that's a real decrease.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah. No, we're aware of that, that's why we do ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And certainly the number of speeders haven't decreased.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, that's a good point, that's why we look at these monthly stats.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

And I don't know if anybody ever game them to you before.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We've had them on a periodic basis in the past, but I guess, you know, these are accumulated from the statistics that the police officers have to submit back to the precincts.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, these are the statistics, the monthly statistics, and we'll make sure that you get that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, great.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Now, I give them to you because I'm assuming that you will give them to the rest of the committee.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I shall.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay, so you will continue to get the stats.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Great. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

And if you have a question on them, depending on what unit you're looking at, I may have the Commanding Officer of Highway Patrol ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

•• you know, answer why they're like that, if it is Highway Patrol.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, that might be a good topic for the next meeting, too, because with the holidays and sometimes the incidents of drunk driving is increased, it's •• with the bad weather coming and the incidents of road rage, I mean, these are all issues that people are concerned about now, so perhaps we could talk about that at length at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, we will. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

And thank you for your consideration.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You're welcome.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I did have to go to the wake, Roger Shannon's father•in•law passed away. So thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, please extend our sympathies to ••

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you. I will.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

•• Roger and his family. Thank you.

All right, I guess it would be a good time now to bring up the members of Crime Stoppers Board who are here; if you would come forward, gentlemen, to the table and identify yourselves.

MR. SCE:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Gentlemen, if you could just introduce yourselves for the record and give us a little bit of a background of your involvement with Crime Stoppers and where everything sits now.

MR. SCE:

Anthony Sce III, I'm the Chairman of Crime Stoppers; please excuse my voice, I have a pretty bad cold. I've been with Crime Stoppers for about seven years, have taken the chairman's

position, I'm going on my third year now. With me I have Loring Miller who has been with Crime Stoppers •• go ahead, introduce yourself.

MR. MILLER:

I'm Loring Miller, I've been on the Board of Directors for approximately four years, I'm on the Rewards Committee as well, and that's it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Legislator O'Leary, did you •• you had some questions for these gentlemen?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yes, I wanted to •• you had heard the Commissioner testify that police officers took part in fund •raising activities; is it your experience that that was the case or not?

MR. SCE:

Not at all, Legislator.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right, so police officers have never taken part in any of the fund•raising activities of Crime Stoppers.

MR. SCE:

They have not raised funds but they've been there as a symbol of the Crime Stoppers Board working with the Police Department.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. Perhaps you can take us through the process as a board, how you handle the monies, how they're received and the process on how the reward monies are given out and what else you do with those monies besides giving out rewards.

MR. SCE:

The board's two primary functions are public awareness and raising funds in order to compensate the tipsters anonymously. The Commissioner was correct in saying that once a call comes in and someone is found guilty of a crime, we then have a rewards board who decides on

how much that person or individual should get, then the money goes to the bank with a code and, as the Commissioner said, that individual leaves with his reward money.

The Commissioner, not to get off the track, has told us as well that he is supportive of us. The issue is it's been a lot of lip service, and by that I mean he says he supports us, and he does because we •• I think we bring great value to the Police Department and to the community. However, we have no credentials, we have no inside support, we have no go•to people to facilitate the raising of funds, meaning helping us with the inside work. We're a bunch of •• it used to be a board of about 15 people down to about six at present time because the morale has just been blown apart by, again, not •• quite honestly, non•supportive, not having the support. We ask •• all I've asked of the Commissioner was when we do our fund•raisers, can you show up and give a few words, give a few statistics to the people so they know what they're donating their monies to; that's powerful, that's powerful, and the response I got was, "If I can make it I'll make it," kind of thing. So it's a big non•supportive issue. I've know Loring Miller has put together some things and he can go into a little more detail with you, plus his voice is better.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Before Mr. Miller does that, I just want to point out that to negate the purposes of fund•raising or the need to fund•raise, this proposal, it would pretty much negate that, would it not? I mean, how much is generated a year in your fund•raising activities, approximately?

MR. SCE:

Fifty thousand.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, that's the cap number I put into the resolution.

MR. SCE:

Right.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And I didn't know that, by the way. But at any rate ••

MR. SCE:

Yeah, it's approximately 50,000.

LEG. O'LEARY:

If we were to be successful in passing this proposal and go through all the legal considerations that would be made obviously by the County Attorney's Office and we get by all of that, this would negate any need for you to be fund-raising in the future, would it not?

MR. SCE:

No, because part of what we've done •• because of our no direction at this time, we've actually been not as giving, if you will, on the rewards and I think that hurts the program, because we don't know where our next dollar is going to come from.

The other thing that has stopped this past year is •• because we're afraid to spend the money, is the main issue of Crime Stoppers, public awareness, make people know what we do, and we haven't spent any of these monies on advertising and getting the word out of who we are and how we could benefit the community. I think it was you, Legislator O'Leary, who said that with these additional monies we can do a better job than we're presently doing ••

LEG. O'LEARY:

Uh•huh.

MR. SCE:

•• and that goes without saying. As Chairman, I'm very disappointed in what I have done and what this board has done and it's basically been because of lack of support.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. Well, I mean, but the report I have in front of me, just going by the last four or five years or so, it would appear that the average amount of rewards on an annual basis given out is around 18 to 20,000?

MR. SCE:

Yes.

LEG. O'LEARY:

So, I mean, that has remained fairly constant throughout the years.

MR. SCE:

Yes.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And the additional monies can be used for the Public Awareness Program that you should expand upon.

MR. SCE:

Most definitely.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. I'm sorry, Mr. Miller, you can go now.

MR. MILLER:

Good afternoon. Well, actually I'm not •• I'll try not to be redundant and go back on to anything that's been discussed. Crime Stoppers essentially, the reason we need it, it's based on the principal that someone other than the criminal has information that can solve a crime and there are three major problems that law enforcement has in generating that information; fear of reprisal, an attitude of apathy and reluctance to get involved. So Crime Stoppers as a world •wide organization, the whole concept of it, it offers anonymity to people who provide the information and it pays rewards when the information leads to an arrest.

There are three essential elements to the Crime Stoppers Program; the community, the media and the police. And the Crime Stoppers as a private, not•for•profit corporation is self •perpetuating, self•operating, administering, and it cannot do without the cooperation of both the media and the police; although they cannot be a part of the organization itself, they can be advisors and we need to have advisory panels and cooperating people from those two groups.

The role of law enforcement •• and I'm reading a couple of things right now that are taken right out of the by•laws or general guidelines from Crime Stoppers International, and I'm just reading •• out of a huge list, I'm just reading a couple of key things that are lacking here. "Role of law enforcement, appear with members of the Crime Stoppers Board at Board of Directors at public speaking functions" •• and most of our public speaking functions are in addition to awareness to try and generate funds •• "and to defer conflicts between the Crime

Stoppers Board and law enforcement agency to the Crime Stoppers Board." So, you know, we have to be •• we command that cooperation from the Police Department in order for us to function and benefit them.

The role of the Board of Directors is basically to represent the community in that three part coalition between law enforcement, the community and the media. And we've had a couple of situations, Anthony, Mr. Sce referred to •• well, you know, you asked about the funds •• first of all, murders of which there are 24 now recently in the last couple of months, I think there are two that are not on that list, we've had 24 murder arrests since our inception. Murder rewards now are up to \$2,000 instead of one, and God willing we won't keep having a lot of them happen, but if they happen we want to catch them and if we catch them we're giving out \$2,000, so that's gone up.

We also, as he had said earlier, we're trying to conserve a prudent reserve right now because we've virtually been stifled in our ability to advertise, to go ahead with the public awareness part of the program because we need to hold on to money for the rewards. And right now, you'll be •• this is not the middle of Wyoming, you know, we have a large population here in Suffolk and we need to get the word out there that this line is available, if you know something it doesn't have to be one of our most wanted. I think you all have in front of you some copies of our most wanted posters, these are all things that we have to generate, the most wanted posters, the ads in the newspapers that the media cooperate with.

And basically, with all due respect to the administrations of both Commissioner Dormer and County Executive Levy, we are as a Board of Directors bound by Crime Stoppers International, their guidelines, regulations and proven successful formulas for operation. The Suffolk County Police Department depends on us to meet their needs, but we've not mutually benefitted by an equivalent amount of cooperation in meeting hours. We're fully aware and understanding of the budgetary and man power constraints and we understand that these can directly or ultimately effect Crime Stoppers. Crime Stoppers of Suffolk County, Inc., however, must not be restricted by those constraints as we are mandated and chartered as a separate and private not•for•profit entity that ironically exists solely for the benefit of the Police Department and the County that we serve.

The citizen volunteers on our Board of Directors have been inhibited in our hard working efforts

to assure the continuity of this successful program and even the trust of the officers and detectives within the Suffolk Police Department who have turned to Crime Stoppers over and over throughout the years with such great results have been inhibited by the reduced man power within the bureau office. Our volunteers have been denied the valid identification previously provided by the department to allow us the sufficient credibility with potential donators within the citizenry and business community. There is substantially less sworn police professionals within the Crime Stoppers office and it remains to be seen how this will affect both the internal and police use of the Tips Hotline and the ability to continue the perceived and actual guarantee of anonymity and security.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Mr. Miller?

MR. MILLER:

You don't want me to read the whole thing?

LEG. O'LEARY:

No, I would ask you to submit that for the record.

MR. MILLER:

I certainly will.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I think the message ••

MR. MILLER:

Okay.

LEG. O'LEARY:

•• has been well received by the members of the committee. The Commissioner is solidly behind the existence of this unit and the justification for the merits of the resolution has been addressed as well. So I want to thank you for coming today.

MR. MILLER:

Thank you for cutting me off.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, I would just like to add, I know that the Commissioner had to leave but I know his representative is here and perhaps he could take back to him the suggestion that he sit and meet with you or some representative of the department sit and meet with you to address some of the concerns that you expressed here today.

MR. SCE:

That would be excellent. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Thank you for coming down.

MR. MILLER:

Okay, thank you.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Next, the Suffolk County SPCA had requested to have a brief presentation before the committee, and we have with us the Chief of the Department, Roy Gross and Gary Rogers. Gentlemen, thank you.

MR. GROSS:

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. I'll let Gary finish handing out the goodies before I would begin.

Some of you know what the SPCA is, apparently a lot of you here may not know what the SPCA is and I just want to just basically describe some of the services that we provide. We've been incorporated in 1984, we have been in service for over 20 years providing services to the County of Suffolk residents. There is only one •• New York State allows only one SPCA per County, and that is actually no cost to the taxpayers whatsoever.

We investigate approximately 3,000 cases a year, that includes animal abuse and neglect,

animal fighting such as dog and cock fighting, some of which are gang related. Recently you probably saw in the news a couple of weeks ago that we executed a search warrant in Bay Shore where a cock fighting rink was located, an arrest was made there. Our peace officers are trained by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and the Suffolk County Police Department, we also have in-house our own New York State Certified instructors. We •• the Suffolk County SPCA is the largest SPCA in the State of New York. Some of our agents are also Special Deputy U.S. Marshals. Also, the Suffolk County SPCA is a member of the Suffolk County Terrorism Response Task Force and we have an agreement, we have an MOU, a Memorandum of Suffolk County with the Suffolk County OEM. We maintain a data base for dog bite incidents in Suffolk County, we also require to enforce the Dangerous Dog Law including maintaining a data base on that as well.

We provide humane education programs in the schools and other institutions. As you know, in July of 2001, the Suffolk County Legislature approved unanimously possession of the Suffolk County MAS Unit, that's the Mobile Animal Spay/Neuter Hospital. It's a 40 foot state-of-the-art mobile hospital that could provide the same services that a stationary hospital can, but the beauty of it is that it can go to any location anywhere. We received this in July, like I said, of 2001, and besides doing the spay/neuter programs in Suffolk County which are so important, in the back of our minds we thought that if, in fact, it had to be used for any type of an emergency such as the wild fires that we had some years ago in Suffolk County, that we would have to use that as well for something like that. And then, of course, on September 11th of 2001, the MAS Unit was called into action in the City of New York, it was there for nearly two months to provide support, that very support of the search and rescue dogs as well as the abandoned animals that were left in the apartment buildings.

Like I said, we were there for almost two months, we treated over a thousand dogs that were there from all over the United States and I think we did a fine job of doing that and I thank you all, without that MAS Unit we couldn't have done that.

In November of 2001, we were called in to Flight 587 in Belle Harbor. We were only there, you know, one night, but we also provided support to the animals that were hurt in that situation. We also provide support to the needy, free dog food for the elderly, any services and help that they need as well.

We provide free rabies clinics throughout the County. You know that confirmed rabies is on Long Island, there is confirmed cases of rabies on Long Island and how important it is to continue providing these services. In the last ten years we provided over 25,000 free rabies inoculations in the County of Suffolk. We also provide a spay/neuter for feral cats; in the last 15 years we've treated, we spay/neutered over 30,000 animals, and this prevents the over population, of course, of these unwanted animals, it also helps prevent disease in the County.

We lose approximately \$2 million a year to the Manhattan-based ASPCA. Just for example, Drew Barrymore gave a million dollars to the ASPCA for their efforts at Ground Zero treating the search and rescue dogs. ASPCA had nothing to do with treating the search and rescue dogs, it was the Suffolk County SPCA that provided that service and the ASPCA took that money. They also used our MAS Unit and my speech for their advertising campaign, this is the ASPCA. We are not affiliated with the ASPCA, we're not a subdivision of the ASPCA, not one penny of money that's contributed from Suffolk County residents to the ASPCA comes back to Suffolk County.

So what I'm getting at, just basically we need help. We need police radios for our field agents; I understand there's surplus radios out there. We have 29 peace officers that are in Suffolk County, we only have five radios. We also have civilian investigators that go to some of these homes and environments where in an emergency they have no way of communicating with the Police Department if they need help, so we really need that help as well. We're asking possibly if you could raise the dog license fees a dollar in the County, that could help support to pay for some of the needs for the Suffolk County SPCA. We need funding to expand and continue our programs and we also need advertising to make people aware that the Suffolk County SPCA is not the ASPCA and possibly to advise your constituents or, you know, any other way to get the public to realize what we do and who we are. And with that, I think I covered it all; Gary, did I leave anything out?

MR. ROGERS:

No, but any questions, we'll be here to help you out.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much for that presentation, it really was very informative. And I would suggest that as far as helping getting the word out, the County does have an Office of Public

Information, and certainly what you do and trying to help get that word out certainly fits within the mission of that office. And Debbie Eppel is the person that you would want to contact, she happens to be in the audience today and I'm sure that she will, you know, maybe get your information. And I think that would hold true for the Crime Stoppers; you may want to utilize the services of that department, Office of Public Information, to help get out information about Crime Stoppers.

I just want to personally thank you. I had a situation in my district probably not more than a few months after I was elected and it was a home that was incredibly unkempt is the most polite thing I can think to say about it, but there was an elderly couple that were living in there and they were really hurting themselves. The woman did not •• wasn't able to hear, loved animals and used to be out in the middle of the night every night feeding rats in her backyard, and the house was filled with all kinds of debris. And a police officer came to my office and didn't know what to do, he was so afraid that these people were going to fall through the cracks because their son had contacted the department because he hadn't been able to get a hold of them and had been calling for over a month and the police officer went to the door, had to break down the door and he went in and the guy said, "Well, if I wanted to talk to somebody on the phone, I'd call them, I don't answer the phone." But be that as it may, the only way they were able to be assisted was because there were animals in the house and the ASPCA came down and removed all the animals, and at the moment I can't remember how many but there were, you know ••

MR. ROGERS:

Ninety•two.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

•• had to be twenty; pardon me?

MR. ROGERS:

Ninety•two.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Ninety•two, thank you very much. But had it not been for the SPCA, these people, you know, I don't know what would have happened to them or to the people that lived around them, because the immediate neighbor had found a rat in her baby's crib, I mean, the story was just

incredible. But again, I just want to publicly thank you and there are so many other ways that you help that people just aren't aware of. So I thank you for coming down and contacting me to come down today.

MR. ROGERS:

Well, thank you for having us here.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah, I just wanted an opportunity also to thank you, and I know we have spoken. I know how long Mr. Rogers has been doing this, I haven't seen you in a long time, it was nice to see you.

MR. ROGERS:

Yeah, I hide out now and then.

LEG. NOWICK:

My question •• and also, thank you for the work that you did on September 11th and in those months afterwards. Is there •• and maybe, I don't know, maybe Legislator O'Leary knows this answer; do you know if there is a reason why the Suffolk County SPCA cannot use the police radios? That's what you were looking ••

MR. GROSS:

No, no, we can use, we only have five, the radios cost approximately ••

LEG. NOWICK:

Are there any •• is there a way that we can find out if there are any more that we can get for the organization?

LEG. O'LEARY:

(Inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, I don't know about that.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, it's an issue that I've taken a run at over the years, the previous Police Commissioner received many letters from me on it that we should give them the surplus radios; I don't know what ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, we can check on that.

LEG. BISHOP:

•• why it has never occurred.

LEG. NOWICK:

Can we check on that and see if we can at least get the radios?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Definitely, we will definitely do that.

LEG. BISHOP:

But, I mean, you know, obviously we bought them the van, so there's precedent to partner with them, and if we have to purchase radios we purchase them.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

How much are the radios?

MR. ROGERS:

The radios are approximately \$2,500 a piece; the five that we have we purchased ourselves.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

MR. ROGERS:

And by the way, the MAS Unit, the payback for the MAS Unit is for three years we collected the dead crows and birds that we deposited with the Suffolk County Health Department, we worked

with them, and that was one hell of an undertaking, let me tell you, to do that; that was a job that was just an endless job. So we did, there was payback for the MAS unit, that was part of the deal.

LEG. NOWICK:

You were looking for surplus radios but that would be used radios.

MR. ROGERS:

Right. I mean ••

LEG. NOWICK:

That wouldn't be \$2,500 a piece.

MR. ROGERS:

No, we don't know what that is. Just so you understand, though, the department, we work hand in hand with them, we couldn't have a better relationship than we've had through the years with all different commissioenrs, including the one we have now.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. What we'll do, you said you had 20 officers, 15 do not have radios?

MR. ROGERS:

We have 29 officers ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Twenty•nine, okay.

MR. ROGERS:

•• we have five radios, and those are peace officers, and we only five radios that we purchased ourselves. So we need additional radios at least to cover the peace officers, but we would also like to have more if they're available so that our civilian investigators who also investigate crimes against animals and then, in fact, if they find, if they observe that there is animal cruelty, then they would call a peace officer in. However, in many instances a civilian

investigator may go to a home and then run into a situation where he may need help, so we're concerned for their safety as well as we are for our ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right. Well, we will definitely look into that with the Commissioner to see if there are any surplus radios. And if not, I would be happy to sponsor a budget amendment, and I'm sure the members of the committee would be happy to join me and see if we can find an appropriate offset to at least give you some, you know, a start in trying to get some of those radios for some of those officers.

MR. ROGERS:

Okay, great.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Are there any other questions? Okay, thank you very much, gentlemen.

MR. GROSS:

Thank you.

MR. ROGERS:

Thanks very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. And I just •• we have quite a number of cards, so we're going to use the timer, you have three minutes to address to committee.

And I was remiss, I would like to officially welcome our newest member to the Public Safety Committee and that is Legislator John Kennedy. John, thank you for joining us, I'm glad to have you on the committee.

The first speaker is Edward Stapleton.

MR. STAPLETON:

Well, thank you for the opportunity, I'll be respectful of the time. I'm here to support Legislator Bishop's resolution to streamline emergency medical services coordination and improve

response times.

REMSCO has been acting over the years, the Regional EMS Council, with the Legislator to improve EMS in Suffolk County. But I thought it interesting when I watched the exchange today that at the beginning with the Commissioner everything was built around data, you know, you asked him questions related to data. The Regional EMS Council, which is a State mandated organization, oversees and coordinates EMS in Suffolk County, and as part of that we need data. And very frankly, if you ask me what is the average response time in Suffolk County, what is the time from dispatch to arrival at the scene, what is the time spent on the scene, I couldn't tell you and neither could any of my colleagues tell you because we just don't have the data. So here is an agency that provides the most significant service in Suffolk County which is really responding to life and death emergencies that's operating in the absence of data. So I think the major intent of Legislator Bishop's resolution is to see that we get the data needed to properly coordinate and advise the EMS system.

Certainly there are clinical imperatives that we've talked about before such as cardiac arrest, the management of trauma, heart attack. As you may know, if you have a heart attack and an obstruction of an artery, there are time dependent interventions, and without knowing how much time from the onset of symptoms to the arrival at the hospital with that intervention. We have no idea how effective our EMS system is in achieving that desired result. In cardiac arrest, the time is finite, it's generally less than six to nine minutes for arrival at the scene of ambulances; we do not know that. And we do, however, know that the survival rate in Suffolk County is extremely low, lower than the national average, and we only know that because as part of our responsibilities at University Medical Center we track cardiac arrest outcome. It's one thing to know that survival is low, it's another thing to know why it is low and what we can do to improve it.

So I think this is the first initiative, and I've been on REMSCO for over a decade, that really gets to the heart of the issue which is to give us the necessary data so that we can help the EMS system and the that the EMS system can use to help themselves. So I'll stop there, and I don't know if there are any questions of me, but.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Next speaker, Martin Griffin, Jr.

MR. GRIFFIN:

Hi. Good afternoon. Martin Griffin, the Chief of Operations for the Hampton Bays Volunteer Ambulance in Southampton Town. I'm also here representing the Southampton Town Medical Advisory Committee.

At this point we've been working •• trying to work with Legislator Bishop to work on some common ground for his different bills he's done and some of the work he's done, but we are still not in support of what he's done so far; it's placing a lot of extra burden so far with this data collection. We're in favor of data collection, we're in favor of doing a better job; if you're not looking to do better you're not doing a job right, that's for any occupation whatsoever. We want to help him with data collection, we do believe we do need some sort of data collection but he's got to make sure, one, that the data he's collecting is obtainable by all the different agencies. Some of the data he has is not obtainable by some of our PSAPs.

We definitely don't want to see data collection come before patient care; we don't want that, we're here to help the patient. You're placing, I think •• trying to place all this burden of data collection upon the volunteers is really going to stress them out. They're already trying to maintain certifications, meet response times, provide superb patient care and doing the work they're trying to volunteer to do which is see the patients, then on top of that force them to come back and be analysts, put data together and everything else and get that information to where you want it to go, I think that's very difficult for them to do it. So maybe if we can work together a little better with this and streamline even better to help them out, maybe with some funding or grants to have County funding to do data collection for them, data entry people, streamline the information that you want so that it's available to every single agency, some of the information I can't get you, I can't get that information.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Are you done?

MR. GRIFFIN:

Yes. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. I believe Legislator Bishop has a question.

MR. GRIFFIN:

Yes, sir.

LEG. BISHOP:

What data do you currently collect and what would you be required under the bill to additionally collect that creates the burden?

MR. GRIFFIN:

Most of the data you do want currently is applicable under the patient care report that is in there. Particularly our PSAPs do not record some of our times such as signal 3 times, that might be done by a secondary dispatch, they don't ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Signal 3 •• you need to interpret.

MR. GRIFFIN:

I'm sorry; requesting additional manpower, whether it's for a specific resources ••

LEG. BISHOP:

The bounce.

MR. GRIFFIN:

•• ALS, asking for additional resource, driver EMT, ALS, whoever it may be to get the ambulance on the road, that may be distributed amongst many different call centers.

LEG. BISHOP:

So the PSAP doesn't collect the signal 3 time; what else ist not •• what other data do you not currently have?

MR. GRIFFIN:

The PSAP wouldn't have •• I'm sorry. We may have to get some of the stuff from the PSAP which is maybe EMD determinant codes; if you don't use prior dispatching you may not have that information.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right, but they would accept plain language, they'll accept the plain language so that one ••

MR. GRIFFIN:

Okay. I'm just going through the list real quick.

LEG. BISHOP:

And the •• I just want to point this out, that EMS, Suffolk County EMS will take your raw data, so if you don't have it in a computer form then they will take your handwritten data, whatever you have, you know, they'll accept it in the form that it's currently collected, as long as it has all the information that's requested under the bill, that's their position.

MR. GRIFFIN:

Okay. Any other questions?

LEG. BISHOP:

I'm clarifying just so we know.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you very much. Thank you, sir.

MR. GRIFFIN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Next speaker is Craig Zitek.

MR. ZITEK:

Good afternoon. My name is Craig Zitek, I'm the Safety Officer for the Town of Southampton. Our EMS providers currently are tasked with many duties aside from providing patient care; we're also required to report child abuse, elderly abuse, dog bites, refusal of medical care paperwork, there is constant training as well as attending updates and maintaining certifications. We have now basically •• must also become a data collection specialist; in essence, we're putting data collection ahead of patient care. As an AEMT I know, I've spent more time doing paperwork after a call than I do doing patient care.

This legislation provides penalties for those EMS agencies which do not provide the information requested. Much of the information must be provided by the PSAP, however, there is nothing in the legislation which requires the PSAP to provide this information such as EMS determining codes, signal 3 times, which departments were requested for mutual aid and so on. There are PSAPs which do not currently provide this information to their local agencies, there are other PSAPs which are not able to provide this information without hiring additional dispatchers and/or adding additional equipment at considerable cost.

I know from talking to East Hampton, they have said that they would have to put on most likely two full•time additional dispatchers as well as they would have to have their Computer Aided Dispatch reconfigured in order to collect the information that they're looking for. Why are we penalizing the EMS agencies for not complying with this legislation when they have little control over the collection of this data?

And just on a final note, I think we've missed a great opportunity here to address public education for all the press that there has been on this subject lately. We need to educate the public when to call for an ambulance, how to recognize the signs of stroke, heart attack and so forth, so that we're not burdening our EMS providers. Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay, I have question.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

A question from Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you. Your position is what?

MR. ZITEK:

I'm the Safety Officer for the Town of Southampton.

LEG. BISHOP:

What does that mean; what are you in charge of?

MR. ZITEK:

I work with the town, with town employees, with OSHA, things like that that come along in the town, try and make sure that we are in compliance with everything that comes through the County as well as ••

LEG. BISHOP:

You're in charge of OSHA?

MR. ZITEK:

No, I ••

LEG. BISHOP:

I mean, I don't understand, what is your role with the system?

MR. ZITEK:

I try and make sure that we are in compliance with OSHA, I work with •• now I'm working with the town EMS agencies to see what we can do to try and better come into ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Are you in charge of •• who oversees the operations of the volunteer departments in the Town of Southampton, is that you?

MR. ZITEK:

No, that would not be me.

LEG. BISHOP:

Who would be that person?

MR. ZITEK:

That would mostly be the EMS Council, you just heard from Marty Griffin, he would be one of those people.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay. All right, so then ••

MR. ZITEK:

I work with them.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right. Who •• what I'm trying to get at is who knows how many signal 3's there are in the Town of Southampton for a given period, who would know how many signal 24's have occurred, who would know the average response time, who would know how a particular situation was handled?

MR. ZITEK:

I don't believe there's anyone currently really keeping track of that information.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you very much.

MR. ZITEK:

I don't believe they're set up to take care of that information, keep track.

LEG. BISHOP:

That's what I thought.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Next speaker, Mark Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm a physician, I'm an emergency physician, I'm Professor and Chair of Emergency Medicine at Stony Brook and I'm the Medical Director for the State EMS Program and I would like to talk about two of the issues here.

First, the data collection and reporting. I believe this resolution is long overdue, badly needed and a giant step forward. The only thing I would add to it is that I would hope that the chief complaint as part of the EMD determinant code, that is what a person says when they call in and ask for help so people can use that to refine the system, it may be part of it but that's an important piece of data that's not available now. I also would hope that this information is reported to REMSCO and to the REMAC which by Article 30 of the Regional EMS Medical Advisory Committee has a responsibility and duty to carry out system-wide quality improvement including hospital records so one can collate this information with what actually happened to people in the hospital. And that it goes back to the towns so that the residents know the capabilities and needs of their own systems and it goes back to the town boards who are responsible if there's tax money raised by ambulance tax districts to make sure they have a competent system, and to Fire Commissioners so they fulfill their judicial and social responsibilities as well. So I think the loop should be people who need the data get the data and it goes back so people can see capabilities and needs.

With respect to the resolution and misuse, I just have one concern that it not include patients between medical facilities who might be going from nursing homes to emergency rooms or from a doctor's office to nursing homes. I'll tell you from my experience, 25 years, the highest acuity of any patient are the elderly and those are the most likely to need hospital admission. And if you go to a doctor's office and they say you better go to the emergency room, they probably think something is wrong with you there, too, and it may not be apparent to the observer at a certain point in time. For example, if your potassium is nine and your cardiogram shows that there's effects on your heart from that, you could be at risk of an arrhythmia; you may not go into the arrhythmia but it doesn't mean you don't need the capability of someone who could take care of you. To the observer it might look like you were fine, but because you operate on risk benefit to people, that person would be admitted to an intensive care unit in a hospital.

So I don't know that there's data to support the need for this resolution but I would urge you to be extremely careful about applying transfers from medical facilities to medical facilities because you have high risk people. And don't forget, nursing homes, that's where you're sent for rehab now after a broken leg or a hip replacement and you have a little anxiety or shortness of breath, you could have thrown a thrombus and you might need emergency evacuation care. So it puts an onus on people, on patients and staff that may have little information in the

nursing home setting, and also, it's a kind of funny message if it means from physician's offices to an ER, too. So it's a caution on that bill.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Dr. Henry.

LEG. BISHOP:

I just want to ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Question from Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

So you're for the bill that •• for the data compilation, but you're against the one that has to do with proprietary ambulances; is that ••

DR. HENRY:

Correct.

LEG. BISHOP:

I just want to clarify that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Next speaker, Drew Silverman.

MR. SILVERMAN:

Hello, everybody. My name is Drew Silverman and I'm the President of the Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs Association. My association represents the 28 volunteer ambulance squads in Suffolk County and over 5,000 volunteer ambulance workers. I am also the Chairman of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission. I would like to address the committee on the issue of Resolution 1582•2004 titled "Streamline Emergency Medical Services Coordination and Improve Response Times."

Both the Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs Association and the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Service Commission strongly opposes this resolution. We feel that this is flawed

legislation that will place an unfunded mandate of data collection directly upon the heads of the volunteer EMS provider agencies. Data collection has been and continues to be done by the New York State Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Bureau through the existing prehospital care reporting system; the data is available by the request of the Suffolk County EMS Medical Director at any time. The burden of data collection should not be in any way, shape or form either the responsibility of the individual EMS provider agencies, nor should they be penalized if they do not comply. The State and the County are not funding the agencies for this mandate, plus the volunteer EMS provider agencies are already overworked and understaffed in answering the 110,000 emergency calls which we are at pace to doing as we conclude this calendar year.

The volunteer EMS providers would rather see the County Legislature continue the funding of the existing Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Membership Recruitment and Retention Program and further create legislative incentives for the volunteers on issues such as tax reduction incentives, free college tuition and affordable housing. Again, we feel that this is a needless resolution and flawed legislation that will have a negative impact on the volunteer fire and ambulance services which continue to serve and provide free 24 hour a day, seven day a week emergency medical service response and I urge every member of this committee to oppose it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Drew. Legislator Bishop?

LEG. BISHOP:

Hi, Drew. You are a Chief or you were a Chief, Acting Chief?

MR. SILVERMAN:

I'm a 25 year volunteer in the community, I'm an ex•chief of the Huntington community.

LEG. BISHOP:

Ex•chief. When you were the chief, did you know how many signal 24's were involved in your department, how many signal 3's?

MR. SILVERMAN:

You're talking back about 15 years ago; more or less we had a handle on it because in my

township, in the Town of Huntington, there is no PSAP or Public Safety Answering Point and there continues not to be. The Town of Huntington is unique, it's kind of a home rule township where each fire department and ambulance company does their own in-house dispatching.

LEG. BISHOP:

All right. But did you have the data, did you know at any given •• you said you kind of had a handle on it. Do you have it now, how's that?

MR. SILVERMAN:

On mutual aid calls there were a handful back then 15 years ago, and of course our call volume was less. But there was other areas where we weren't doing data collection, back then, you know, we weren't computerized, things were done by paper.

LEG. BISHOP:

The computers help now, right?

MR. SILVERMAN:

Yeah, but my own squad still isn't completely computerized.

LEG. BISHOP:

But what's the value of the computer, it helps you pull the data so you know what's going on.

MR. SILVERMAN:

It's not just that, it's the manpower, the personnel to do that.

My squad is 100% volunteer, we have no paid people, there are no paid clerical people. We're running 4,600 plus calls a year, we're the third busiest department in the County, we do not have the manpower or the resources to do the data collection ••

LEG. BISHOP:

How many ••

MR. SILVERMAN:

•• that is specified by this resolution. We're about patient care, that's what our task is.

LEG. BISHOP:

That's fine. I just want to know, what would it require you to do that?

MR. SILVERMAN:

I couldn't answer that question because ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Have you asked that question?

MR. SILVERMAN:

Yes, and each department has individual needs, each township operates differently.

LEG. BISHOP:

In your department, what will it require, what does it require in order to comply with this resolution?

MR. SILVERMAN:

I cannot answer that question.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay, that's what I thought. Let me ask you something, Mr. Silverman.

MR. SILVERMAN:

Go right ahead.

LEG. BISHOP:

Did you write a letter that begins, "First I question the methods of data retrieval and dissemination by the committee using PCR data from New York State Department of Health, the data has a history of being skewed and inaccurate"; is this a letter you wrote?

MR. SILVERMAN:

I wrote that letter several months ago; I don't understand your point.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, earlier you said that data should be collected by New York State using PCR's, but you ••

MR. SILVERMAN:

It continues to be.

LEG. BISHOP:

•• say that PCR's are inaccurate and have a history of being skewed.

MR. SILVERMAN:

I think you're misinterpreting what I said. What I said was the data collection is available by the State Department of Health.

LEG. BISHOP:

But what good ••

MR. SILVERMAN:

•• to any County in the region. I've heard the excuses that some of their data was skewed and inaccurate. However, I am being told that that data collection process in the State is being streamlined or has been streamlined because they have gotten the funding to do so. We are not getting the funding down here to do what this resolution is asking us to do.

LEG. BISHOP:

But you don't know what you need in order to do that.

MR. SILVERMAN:

I can't speak for everybody because each department and each township operates differently. You heard previously from other people that testified that even the PSAPs operate differently within the County, so it starts with the PSAPs and then it works down to the volunteer agencies.

LEG. BISHOP:

Final question. If you had the resources would it help you to know this data, would that help you manage your department?

MR. SILVERMAN:

In a word, yes.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you.

MR. SILVERMAN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Next speaker, Linda Kabot.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on revised resolution 1582.

As Councilwoman for the Town of Southampton, I proudly serve as Legislative liaison and advocate for the people who eat, sleep and breath emergency services in my township of 142 square miles, our community volunteers, our community heroes, dedicated volunteer fire and ambulance service providers. The letter that has just been distributed to you supplements the letter dated November 16th signed by the entire Town Board expressing our collective concern about the revised EMS data collection bill.

In sum, there needs to be more work to build consensus on both this EMS data collection bill under consideration by the Legislature as well as the REMSCO response time protocol. There are many unanswered questions. The costs involved to conform to the reporting requirements have not been fully vetted out, regardless of whether the costs are borne by the PSAP, the EMS agency or by the Suffolk County EMS Division. Several agencies have indicated that the proposal, as currently written, results in an unfunded mandate and burdens the EMS agency which will further erode volunteerism, raise local property taxes and potentially further fragment the E•911 System in the event that EMS agencies attempt to set up supplemental dispatch operations in order to conform with the Legislative requirements. Threatening agencies with, quote, "loss of funding from any County of Suffolk source," in the fifth RESOLVED and, quote, "sanctions" in the sixth RESOLVED does not bring everyone closer together and instead drives a greater wedge between them.

Attached to my letter is a list of some specific questions and additional comments that we ask the committee to consider prior to rendering a decision as to whether or not data collection

requirements should be enacted and by what methodology and under whose administrative oversight and at what cost. The Legislature needs to consider whether data collection should be put ahead of patient care. The resolution as currently written puts the burden on volunteers to act 24/7 as dispatchers and data collection agents. If there are 110,000 EMS calls annually County wide and roughly 4,000 of those calls appear to be delayed based on anecdotal records and preliminary analysis of prehospital care reports reviewed by the EMS Medical Director, that is 96% in terms of efficiency. As Legislator Dave Bishop stated in June, 2004 at the Public Safety Committee meeting, "The issue at hand is to debate whether or not 4% of the calls answered on a County wide basis is a tolerable inefficiency, whether or not the deficiencies are County wide or more agency specific and whether or not it is necessary to overhaul the EMS System County wide beginning with uniform data collection and reporting requirements to the Suffolk County EMS Medical Director."

The Legislature needs to consider the law of diminishing returns.

The cost to providing so-called improvements in service may far outweigh the benefits to be provided. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Bishop, you have a question?

LEG. BISHOP:

The Town of Southampton, you contract with the agencies that provide service in your town?

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Correct, except those agencies that are under auspices ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Of the villages, right.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

•• of the fire district.

LEG. BISHOP:

Oh, the fire •• excuse me, I'm sorry. Do you know how many signal 3's and signal 24's occurred in Southampton last year?

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

The town board does not conduct a data collection requirement as part of the contract.

LEG. BISHOP:

Who does that in the Town of Southampton?

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Excuse me?

LEG. BISHOP:

Who does that in the Town of Southampton?

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Each agency does do some form of data collection, however our PSAPs do some form of data collection as well.

LEG. BISHOP:

Exactly.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

What you're trying to do is bring it altogether. I understand what you're trying to get at, you're looking at data collection as a base line and I understand you would like to in the future consider some performance standards. One issue that we're concerned about ••

LEG. BISHOP:

That's not ••

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Not in this legislation, I understand that •• is you heard testimony today from various State officials, REMSCO officials, State EMS officials about wanting the data. The State is not funding the data collection. If you mandate it on the backs of the volunteers which are funded through local property taxes, special assessment taxes, you're creating a situation not only that's a strain on the volunteers, you're increasing local property taxes if they need to buy software, hire personnel to operate dispatch information.

LEG. BISHOP:

Are you saying that the Town of Southampton would be unwilling to buy such software to get that data?

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

No, we're not saying that. In fact, we are exploring what would happen if this is, in fact, adopted. And we have worked with our own PSAP to see what would it take in the event that the town board needs to fund this to accommodate it so it's not on the backs of the people in Flanders per se or Hampton Bays per se, that it's spread out as a General Fund Tax.

LEG. BISHOP:

When you say it's on their backs, do you think that given the choice of not knowing what's the average response time in their town or having the town board fund the software to help extrapolate that information they would choose not to purchase the software?

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

I don't think that it's an issue of just the cost, it's whether ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, you phrased it that way, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

No, I didn't.

LEG. BISHOP:

You said that it's a mandate issue and you don't want ••

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Please don't paraphrase what I've put on paper here.

LEG. BISHOP:

All right. Well, let me then, if I may •• go ahead, I'll let you go first.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Okay. Basically the issue is the law of diminishing returns. EMS system cost money to operate, if you have 96% efficiency, so to speak, based on preliminary data, you have 4% of calls that maybe are inefficient, that should be explored, the issue is not just a matter of cost, it's a matter of balancing everything, okay?

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay, I agree. So let me read to you something and get your reaction to it; and this will take a moment, I apologize, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We don't mind at all, Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you. "I am writing" ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

It's just that when it's not your issue we would expect the same kind of patience, so go ahead.

LEG. BISHOP:

I know. "Dear Mr. Bishop, I am writing this statement to tell you of my experience with the Southampton EMS. On the morning of May 7th, 2004, I placed a 911 request for an ambulance to come to my residence. My son Leo, then four and a half months old, who was a cardiac patient with severe and rare disease needed to be transported to Southampton Hospital. We had a nurse in attendance who started to practice CPR and the situation was extremely critical. I recorded the time of my call which was 8:27 AM, we had to wait until a few minutes until after nine to see the ambulance in the driveway; I have two witnesses, my husband and the nurse

were both present. Our son was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival at Southampton Hospital."

"I called the Town EMS a week or perhaps two weeks afterwards to report what seemed to be a very serious problem, the delay of over 30 minutes in responding to an emergency call. I also reminded the EMS supervisor that we had EMS volunteers come to our house and we had explained Leo's medical situation to them so that we could be entered into the computer system and there would be an awareness of his case in case of a distress call; in fact, in Leo's case a rapid response call was crucial. I was told that the time that had elapsed from the moment I called until the arrival of the ambulance was 11 or 12 minutes which was the normal response time; I disagreed and was told that this had been recorded by the town police. I called the town police who didn't want to discuss the issue with me and refused to communicate the phone number of the EMS Director. Would the life" •• "Would the ambulance had come earlier, it may not have been enough to save Leo's life. However, in a different case it might and this reason alone should be why the EMS Response System and Dispatch System need to be addressed."

Now, if that case fell within the 4%, would you consider that a reasonable inefficiency?

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Well, number one, my condolences to the family of Leo who passed away. I'm not going to speak to the specifics of any particular case. With any EMS system there will be saves and there will be losses.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

And I do understand that there is a need to improve response time. We've heard testimony upon testimony today and in the past that no one is against efforts to improve response time. Today is a hearing to hear concerns about the bill as currently written, that's why I've submitted a six page letter to the Legislature.

LEG. BISHOP:

My question to you is is Southampton Town willing to spend more money to meet this mandate? Which you don't even know what the amount is, and I would suggest to you it's going to be very small.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Legislator, the number one thing that all government officials should be spending money is public health, safety and welfare.

LEG. BISHOP:

Absolutely.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Okay? That's our number one thing, so it's not just a matter of money.

LEG. BISHOP:

I agree. Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN KABOT:

Okay? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. Next speaker, David Brenner. We still have a few more speakers, so if we could try to keep to the three minutes it would be helpful.

MR. BRENNER:

Thank you. I will also be speaking to Legislator Bishop's legislation. Okay, I'm not going to talk to the history other than to remind you of the consequences of delays. I want to move forward

- Oh, I'm David Brenner, I'm the Chairperson of REMSCO, I'm sorry. In order to move forward within EMS, we need to capture data, we need to capture response data in order to improve ourselves. School districts provide data, percentage of students graduating with a Regents
- endorsed diploma, percentage of students meeting social study standards in 5th grade. The Long Island Railroad on any given day can tell you the percent of trains arriving on or close to schedule, air lines can do this, FedEx and UPS can tell you when their deliveries are going to be made. I just heard the Suffolk County Police Department and the SPCA tell us their data. As you know, we can't tell you our data, we don't have it, and those that do have it often can't get

it, the agencies often can't get it from the PSAPs. Poor •• districts with poor statistics in education work to improve that. Airlines that have poor response times work to improve that; their services are based on data, most EMS agencies don't have their data and very few, if any, have reported them.

The information can be used by the agencies, the Medical Director and Suffolk REMSCO, to improve responses, we're looking for ways to help them. We know that there are going to be difficulties gathering data, but the differences are not insurmountable. However, we look at the differences and the difficulties all the time to explain why we're not moving ahead. We have 109 fire departments, 98 EMS agencies, 13 PSAPs, eight of which provide service to EMS; this is going to be a problem, it is a problem but it is not insurmountable.

As was pointed out before, New York State does provide data, right now their data is five years old and it has been identified as flawed. When we attempt to use their data, we're told it's not valid. Oh, we're also not asking the care providers to actually acquire the data, it can be acquired by volunteers who would help us with the data, they don't have to be EMT's to gather that data. I implore you to support the legislation to gather data so that EMS services can be improved. Thank you for your time.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you, David.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, David. Next speaker, Carl Goodman.

MR. GOODMAN:

Good afternoon. I'm Carl Goodman, I'm the Chair of the Suffolk Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee and a practicing emergency physician, so I'll remind the committee that I'm also a volunteer EMS provider within the County. I'm here to support Legislator Bishop's streamline coordination and improve response bill, Resolution 1582•2004.

Let me remind you that REMSCO began analyzing response data in March, 2001. Let me read you a very brief excerpt from the Response committee's report.

"The Response Committee analyzed available County dispatch and New York State pre-hospital care data to assess response times. Response data analysis was limited, many factors contributed to limitations including non-uniform reporting of response times, non-uniform use of the priority dispatch system, multiple PSAPs, and in-house dispatch agencies. Our County dispatch data is, therefore, incomplete in many cases, and particularly for those agencies that are dispatched by PSAPs other than FRES who are dispatched by one of the many single department house centers. New York State data is derived from time entries on the pre-hospital care report and this data set is also incomplete. Legislator Bishop's legislation seeks to remedy this, some of those flaws.

There are significant delays in the State reporting data locally, as Mr. Brenner just indicated, at least five years. There's another significant limitation in New York State and County data and it neither includes calls to which the initial agency dispatch did not respond and, therefore, is not a true representation of how long the patient actually waited for an ambulance to respond. We want to be able to collect data to see what is the response time from the patient's perspective, not from the agency's perspective.

Legislator Bishop's bill seeks to remedy the data collection by providing information required locally to make system improvements.

It would also recommended that the Suffolk County Legislature provide the necessary funding available to facilitate real-time data collection and analysis. The data collected to date has been useful, however limitations lie as it underestimates the real scope of the EMS response problem in Suffolk County. The people of Suffolk County, your constituency, can no longer afford to crawl towards progress by the lack of useful data.

The data •• the lack of useful data may lead to bad decisions and bad decisions may lead to bad outcomes. It's been three years since the process of reform has begun. We've seen some patchwork progress towards improvement but have not gone far enough. This bill is only one small step towards ending the mosaic of a system we have today. I strongly encourage the Legislature to provide the necessary resources and coordination that is necessary to provide a regional solution to a County wide problem. Motions and political pressures must be put aside, EMS system issues must be based on scientifically valid data, evidence-based medicine and best practice. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Next speaker, Andrea Golinsky.

MS. GOLINSKY:

Good afternoon. My name is Andrea Golinsky and I'm the Treasurer of District 7 of the New York State Volunteer and Ambulance Rescue Association and I'd like to read into the record a letter dated November 30th from Gerald Wright, Chairman, District 7 to Legislator Carpenter. Its reference to Introductory Resolution No. 1582•2004. "Just to clear the air, everyone in the EMS field, either volunteer or paid, and undoubtedly everyone in this room today is very concerned with improving response times and thus increasing patient care in Suffolk County. This being said, the consensus of District 7 of the New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, a district that encompasses all of Suffolk County, is a firm no against this resolution No. 1582•2004."

"One of the main concerns is that this would cause an increase in costs to the EMS units due to having to hire someone or a company to keep track of the times when the PSAPs and/or other type agencies already have the ability to do this. It is the feeling of District 7 that this is another case of an unfunded mandate for the EMS units. We feel that this unfunded bill is not what we need and will not do anything to reduce response times or to increase patient care. Signed, Gerald Wright, Chairman, New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, District 7."

LEG. BISHOP:

May I?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Bishop, you have a question?

LEG. BISHOP:

Are you an officer of that organization?

MS. GOLINSKY:

I was. I'm sorry, which organization?

LEG. BISHOP:

This District 7.

MS. GOLINSKY:

Yes, I am, I'm the Treasurer of District 7.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay. Was it discussed at •• it was discussed at one of your meetings, I take it.

MS. GOLINSKY:

It's been discussed at numerous meetings, yes.

LEG. BISHOP:

All right, so then it's fair to ask you a question; I just want to make sure I can direct a question to you. The last sentence, could you read the last sentence again?

MS. GOLINSKY:

"We feel that this is an unfunded" •• "We feel that this unfunded bill is not what is needed and will not do anything to reducing response times or increase patient care."

LEG. BISHOP:

Do you think that •• do you agree with that, do you agree that having the data will not help reduce response times, it would not solve anything?

MS. GOLINSKY:

What we are addressing is the fact that trying to put the data collection on each of the agencies or units in Suffolk County is what we are opposed to.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right; that's not my question, though.

MS. GOLINSKY:

We feel that this ••

LEG. BISHOP:

The question is do you think the data would help?

MS. GOLINSKY:

The data would help but the data is available now through our MedCom and some of the PSAPs, although they may not be all in •• by the same manner.

LEG. BISHOP:

Comprehensive; right, it's not comprehensive. Like you •• as an agency, you think it's important to record when the first responder arrives, right; you would agree with that?

MS. GOLINSKY:

Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:

But that's not in the current data on the PCRs, is it?

MS. GOLINSKY:

On the PCR's?

LEG. BISHOP:

It's on the PCR's? It's not recorded currently.

MS. GOLINSKY:

The first responder, are you referring to the ambulance?

LEG. BISHOP:

No, first responder on the scene, not the ambulance.

MS. GOLINSKY:

No.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

MS. GOLINSKY:

However, there are, through MedCom, for instance •• not in my particular corps because we do have a secondary level of dispatching, but there are many corps within Suffolk County who are dispatched through MedCom System who are •• have them recorded, just signal 3's, through MedCom; in other words, MedCom will be the ones to bang out the signal 3's for those particular units. So yes, they do have that information.

LEG. BISHOP:

Are you •• what agency are you with?

MS. GOLINSKY:

With the Huntington Community First Aid Squad in Huntington.

LEG. BISHOP:

Do you know how many signal 3's and signal 24's you've had in the last year?

MS. GOLINSKY:

As of this point in time I can tell you that we probably •• we've handled about 4,600 calls, and it's my understanding that we've had approximately 26 no responses ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

MS. GOLINSKY:

•• which means that would be a 24 to another agency.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right. Okay, that's good that you have your data and that's important to you.

MS. GOLINSKY:

It's important to everyone to know, but the problem is in collecting all of this information and forcing other agencies to collect the information, again, it's an unfunded mandate when it would be a third level of collection.

LEG. BISHOP:

Am I fair to ask you about Huntington, because you're probably most familiar about that. What additional action would you have to take under this bill that you don't currently do; what would you have to do?

MS. GOLINSKY:

We would probably have to install a complete computer system. We would probably ••

LEG. BISHOP:

You don't have a computer system currently?

MS. GOLINSKY:

We do not have a computer dispatch system, no.

LEG. BISHOP:

So you do everything by hand, so we would take your hand data.

MS. GOLINSKY:

Everything by hand on paper; everything by hand on paper and all of those times are recorded on the paper. They are also given via radio to MedCom, which it's my understanding that they have a computer system that collects this data.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

MS. GOLINSKY:

So therefore, if the Medical Director wanted the data from my corps, for instance, it could be requested from MedCom and/or ••

LEG. BISHOP:

But you'd have to authorize it, your department would have to authorize it.

MS. GOLINSKY:

I don't think that would be a problem.

LEG. BISHOP:

Good, then you would have no problem complying, it would be easy.

MS. GOLINSKY:

But our concern with District 7 is throughout Suffolk County and there are many agencies in this County that would not be able to ••

LEG. BISHOP:

I think the point of my questions is that it really isn't that burdensome, ultimately. If it's collected by somebody with a computer, then all you have to do is authorize its release. I also •• I'm a little concerned that everything is done in Huntington by hand, I mean, I would suggest that perhaps you look at that.

MS. GOLINSKY:

It's worked for 37 years.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right. Well ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right, is that •• do you have any other questions? Thank you very •• oh, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Ma'am, you mentioned a group I guess that you are here on behalf of; approximately how many individual ambulance corps do you represent?

MS. GOLINSKY:

At this point in time we represent 20 of the ambulance corps in Suffolk County.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Twenty; how many are there all together?

MR. BRENNER:

Ninety•eight.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Ninety•eight? Okay.

MS. GOLINSKY:

Ninety•eight; I believe that would also include the fire department/ EMS agencies, too.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, fine. And do you routinely interact with County agencies, with FRES or any other type of County agency for support, training, guidance, anything along those lines?

MS. GOLINSKY:

Yes, we do.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And that is FRES?

MS. GOLINSKY:

We interact with FRES, we interact with the Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs Association.

LEG. BISHOP:

EMS.

MS. GOLINSKY:

EMS.

LEG. KENNEDY:

But County agencies in particular.

MS. GOLINSKY:

Pardon me?

LEG. KENNEDY:

County agencies in particular, that's FRES and the Health Department?

MS. GOLINSKY:

And the EMS agencies.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Andrea. Next speaker, initial R Franz.

MR. FRANZ:

Good afternoon. My name is Robert Franz, I am President of Huntington Community First Aid Squad and I am reading into the record a letter dated November 29th from our Chief, Brian Canty to Legislator Angie Carpenter with reference to IR No. 1582•2004.

"I applaud the Suffolk County Legislature for developing legislation for the information gathering of statistics for emergency medical services. Our organization shares the same goals of the Legislature in ensuring that the residents of our district are serviced with the quickest medical care available. However, this legislation would put an extra burden on our already overburdened volunteers, it also adds an additional onus on our budgetary responsibility to our district."

"By simply asking us to provide you with this information without offering a vehicle to do such is going against the purpose of this legislation which is to provide a uniform reporting system to transmit the requested data. I believe that the County should develop and deploy a system where such information can be easily collected and reported without any financial or personal burden on our volunteer services."

"Our emergency medical service is 100% volunteer, we do not have any paid personnel. Being the third busiest volunteer ambulance service in Suffolk County, answering over 4,600 calls in 2003, this extra work is going to tax our already over taxed volunteers. We thank you for your consideration in this matter. Sincerely, Brian Canty, Chief of Huntington Community First Aid Squad."

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. Franz. One question.

LEG. BISHOP:

I just want to understand. Am I •• does that •• when you say no •• what is it, manpower, burden or something? The phrase in the ••

MR. FRANZ:

It's a burden.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Personal burden.

LEG. BISHOP:

Personal burden. Is it the position of the Huntington First Aid Squad that they will not do anything additional to provide data to the County?

MR. FRANZ:

We're saying that this puts an onus on us to do additional work and we're already overburdened answering 4,600 calls a year.

LEG. BISHOP:

So it is ••

MR. FRANZ:

And I believe it was put into the record already that our 24 rate is less than 30 a year which is less than a half of a percent of our calls, so I think we're doing one wonderful job of providing excellent patient care ••

LEG. BISHOP:

I'm sure you are.

MR. FRANZ:

•• in a timely manner to our community.

LEG. BISHOP:

I mean that, I'm sure you're doing a great job of providing patient care. But I'm just trying to get at the position of your agency is that you're not going to lift a finger to provide this data to the County, is that because you're over burdened already?

MR. FRANZ:

We're already over burdened.

LEG. BISHOP:

So you will not lift a finger to provide data.

MR. FRANZ:

And I believe that •• I believe, as was mentioned before, that Suffolk County should have that information already and the New York State Department of Health should have that information already.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right, but you're ambulance council says the New York State information is unreliable which, I mean, that's on the record already, so.

MR. FRANZ:

I'm not going to comment on that whether it's reliable or not, if they get it off the PCRs it should be reliable data.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you very much, Mr. Franz.

MR. FRANZ:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We do have two more speakers; Pat Mansir, Councilwoman Mansir?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak. I've been involved with emergency services since 1979, myself as an instructor and in different capacities since then. And the goal of cutting down response time is a laudable goal, every one of us in the field knows that we need to do that. When you're on the side of an emergency, you really want the ambulance in your driveway as soon as you hang up the phone and we try very hard to do that.

My concern here is that this seems to be going in a circular motion. We've had the introduction of the protocol and the requirements and legislation and now data; it's like the chicken and the egg, which should come first. But each attempt at this is very expensive, it's also very time consuming, but more than that it's frustrating to the people in the field. And as a representative of government, let me say a lot of times we're asked to do things •• and I'm speaking for myself now •• we say, "Well, okay, as government personnel I can do that," and you get into the scene and you realize the experts are the people who are out there doing the job. Before government comes in to help, get your experts together, they're the people on their knees out there in the grass doing the job. Let our people become part of REMSCO, that we need to take time to do that and put our own representatives on that council, let them talk a peaceful dialogue. And we have had members of REMSCO come on out to East Hampton •• you were out there yourself,

Mr. Bishop, and I appreciate that •• and it was a large room of people and it probably felt adversarial, it did feel adversarial. But I really that think when you can get a number of people at the table working, you're going to come out with a better approach. And every one of us involved in emergency services wants to improve what we've got, it's just how to go about it, and I have a feeling that what's happening right now is not the best way. And I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Do you have a question?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes. Councilwoman, thank you for coming out, I know from my own experience it's very far and I appreciate that. The Town of East Hampton, what burden would this place in the Town of East Hampton, this legislation to collect data? Because obviously, you say it's chicken and egg, I think we would agree that data comes before action, so we want to know what's going on.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Data is a valuable asset ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

•• as you know right now, and it's been difficult for •• I know you've worked on this for a while, for you to collect data from the east end.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

We have our dispatch, it would probably add about six people to our dispatch.

LEG. BISHOP:

Why is that?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

That's the last figure that I got, because ••

LEG. BISHOP:

That seems a little ••

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

I think at any one time maybe they only have two, that's what I'm hearing.

LEG. BISHOP:

So it would take an additional six just to keep track of what's going on?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Sounds like it, because if you have •• every couple of minutes you're calling out for a signal 3, you're going to have people stepping on one another on the airways.

LEG. BISHOP:

No.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

You don't think so?

LEG. BISHOP:

No, I don't think that's what we're talking about.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Well, neither of us, though, are experts in that field.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, I've tried to make myself an expert ••

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

I certainly am not.

LEG. BISHOP:

•• and I would hope that if the Town of East Hampton is ••

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

We have one of the best systems ••

LEG. BISHOP:

•• going to make somebody an expert so that we can improve the system and collect the data.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

East Hampton has one of the best systems in New York State.

LEG. BISHOP:

How do you know?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Oh, I know, we're good.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, how many signal 24's have you had in East Hampton? What's the average response time in East Hampton?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Legislator Bishop, I'm not arguing with you.

LEG. BISHOP:

No, you're not ••

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

I'm trying to answer your question. We have one of the best systems there is; we're now putting \$4 million into having the best. The dispatchers that would have to be added in addition to this •• and I don't accurately know the number of those, I can't answer that question •• will be in addition to that, that would be put in there, it will be on the backs of the different ambulance corps. If you want data, we'll give you data. But I really think that the most important message here is that you actually get together with the people in the field and find out •• because if you get data you're going to do something with it; that's our concern, what's the next step? Talk to us, talk to the people who dispatch from the Montauk Fire Department and send a crew to Oyster Pond and you cannot get an ambulance into Oyster Pond. We're rural, we're out here in the country. And through everything I've dealt with from the time I became an adult, I find that from Montauk as you head west, it becomes different; the cutoff seems to be the canal. We are different on the east end and we need to be handled differently; that I did not intend to say.

LEG. BISHOP:

All right. In the Town of East Hampton, who has the information about how many signal 24's, how many signal 3's, what's the average response time?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Each individual ambulance corps.

LEG. BISHOP:

And do you have that?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

I don't, you know I don't.

LEG. BISHOP:

They don't share it with the town?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

You know I don't have that.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, I know you don't have it with you but, I mean ••

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

But you would like it ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Of course.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

•• and we will do whatever we need to give that to you, we're not going to hold that back. But what I'm saying is do this the right way.

LEG. BISHOP:

I would suggest that a uniformed data collection is the right way, but I understand what you're coming from.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

And can you do anything to work to get our people on REMSCO so that we may have a valuable conversation?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yeah, but REMSCO is a State agency, we're the County, but we will, I agree with you.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you. Your comments are very well taken, by the way. Legislator Kennedy. Ah, councilwoman?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Councilwoman?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Councilwoman Manzir, if you could, one more question.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm sorry. I'm trying to wrestle with the acronyms and I just •• you made a comment during your statement that we're putting \$4 million into something.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

East Hampton Town is putting \$4 million into an advanced 800 system so that our 800 out in the field works as well as the 800 in the vehicles.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So that's the town who's looking to go ahead and provide assistance ••

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

We're doing it.

LEG. KENNEDY:

•• to the individual community ambulance corps; is that it?

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

Yes. We're putting up more towers and a more sophisticated pager, so that the mechanism that goes in the pager that the responders wear on their belts can actually be keyed as a result

of this, keyed back to dispatch so that they know, "I'm on my way."

LEG. BISHOP:

Right, immediately.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

So there are significant advances and I think if you just •• if you indulge me for the third time, if you let the people in the field ••

LEG. KENNEDY:

I hear what you're saying and I think your message is very clear.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

•• they'll come up with the ideas.

LEG. KENNEDY:

That people who are line people who are delivering the service certainly should have a place in developing whatever the mechanism is that comes out of this. Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN MANSIR:

You're absolutely right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. Our last speaker, Anthony LaFerrera.

MR. LA FERRERA:

Good afternoon. Anthony LaFerrera, Town of Babylon Fire Chiefs Association; I'll be short and sweet. In reference to the amended copy of 1582, we would just like everybody to know the Town of Babylon Fire Chiefs Association is in favor of the amended copy and we're very happy with it. Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:

Do you recall how much it will cost Babylon Central Fire Alarm to comply with this?

MR. LA FERRERA:

It was between 40 and \$50,000.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right. Thanks a lot, I appreciate it.

MR. LA FERRERA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. All right, let us go to the agenda. Thank you for your patience. We're going to go to the agenda.

LEG. BISHOP:

(Inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, I have to tell you that ••

LEG. BISHOP:

She's the Director of Emergency Services for Suffolk County.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I know who Dr. Alicandro is and I know that you're requesting her to come up. Let us wait till we get to the resolution and see if that is a necessity at that point, because we have another committee that's due to start in ten minutes.

LEG. BISHOP:

We can run late if we want.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, we will begin with the Tabled Resolutions.

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TABLED RESOLUTIONS

1582•04 • Streamline Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coordination and improve response time (Bishop), which we've heard a lot of discussion about. Is there a motion for this bill.

LEG. BISHOP:

I would make a motion to go into executive session. The point of the executive session is that the County Attorney has advised myself and the Director of Emergency Services for Suffolk County that to discuss cases of •• individual cases of poor response time in Suffolk County is a matter of litigation and potential litigation and as such that we should not be able to hear them in a public setting. I would prefer to do it, you know, but that's the advice of the County Attorney.

I don't think that you can have a meaningful discussion and analysis of the implications of this bill and its significance if you don't hear what's on the line here.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I would have to agree with you, but I would also state I did not know that there was going to be a request for an executive session, I would have preferred having heard that sooner.

LEG. BISHOP:

I didn't know that until a few minutes ago because I was told not to ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay; I guess it was after you shared that correspondence.

LEG. BISHOP:

No, that didn't •• that correspondence came to me directly and there's no litigation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

LEG. BISHOP:

This is the Director of Emergency Services has other, you know, gut•wrenching cases, if you want to hear them.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Legislator O'Leary, did you •• oh, I'm sorry, I thought I saw you pull your microphone. I don't know •• and I'm speaking for myself as the chair of the committee. I know the bill has been changed substantially, I've heard an awful lot of testimony here today; I for one am not prepared to support this and would make a motion to table. So based on that••

LEG. BISHOP:

That's fine, but are you making the motion •• are you calling for the vote before we've had a chance to understand the full picture? I'm just asking you to go into executive session because there is a lot on the line for Suffolk County as a government. You can put aside your indifference to the individual tragedies that may be occurring, but as a fiduciary of the County you need to hear what's on the line here.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Legislator Bishop, I am not putting aside or disregarding anything as you just stated. However, having been into this committee now for two hours, the enormity of this piece of legislation and the discussion that you're suggesting ensue and to be done in executive session, I do not believe that the majority of the committee is ready to make a decision on this bill today and I would be prepared for us to have that discussion at the next committee meeting. So given that, you know, it's your call.

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion to go into executive session. There is a •• you made a motion to table, I think that that would be premature until you heard the testimony of the ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. And as the chair ••

LEG. BISHOP:

•• Director of Emergency Services.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

As the chair of the committee, again, two hours into this with another committee waiting to

begin that has equally important issues to discuss ••

LEG. BISHOP:

I would suggest to you that probably half the committee meetings in this County run late so, you know •• I would also further suggest that this is a very important issue and we haven't fully heard the testimony.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And precisely why, it is an important issue. And I'm saying as the Chair of the committee that we will schedule that executive session if, in fact, our Counsel agrees that it should be done in executive session.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, that ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And we will do it, we will do it when we first begin the meeting, we will do it •• I will schedule that meeting earlier so that we have ample time so we come to the discussion with a fresh mind.

LEG. BISHOP:

I •• I'm incredulous that you would allow a time limit that we haven't even reached yet to prevent the committee from hearing the full testimony today. And I don't understand what would be gained by dividing this into two hearings; let's just get it over with, let's have a vote.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator O'Leary.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I think Legislator Bishop's concern is that he wants this matter addressed and resolved today which is not going to occur. Clearly this resolution will be tabled going forward and I think the

suggestion of the chair is noteworthy, that ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Well ••

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, let me finish. That the request you made with respect to executive session should be addressed at a later meeting. This resolution is not being moved today.

LEG. BISHOP:

You're in charge?

LEG. O'LEARY:

No.

LEG. BISHOP:

I would suggest that there's a democracy here and I'll ask for a vote and we'll get a vote.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Excuse me, excuse me.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, I would suggest there is ••

LEG. BISHOP:

And you're probably right, you probably have the votes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Legislator Bishop ••

LEG. BISHOP:

I'm disappointed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

And I would like to speak •• I would like to be heard on the tabling motion then, and I'll ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

As soon as it's your turn to speak ••

LEG. BISHOP:

I will accept your invitation ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

As soon as it's your turn to speak, but Legislator O'Leary had the floor. And any request or any speaking that is done goes through the chair, as Legislator Foley is quick to remind everybody; but in his absence, I will remind you. Legislator O'Leary has the floor, you may continue.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. And I will make a motion to table 1582 and take into consideration at a later date Legislator Bishop's request.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. There is a motion to table. Is there a second?

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator Nowick. On the tabling motion, Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

I'll yield to Legislator Lindsay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, I came prepared to discuss some of the substance of the bill because truthfully I have some questions that I'd like answered and I don't want it to go to the next meeting because, one, I think we have a lot of people in the audience that are concerned with the subject. And if you don't mind, Madam Chair, if the sponsor could answer some of the questions I have about the bill?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

On the tabling motion? Sure, go right ahead.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The way I view this bill, there's really two different reporting requirements; is that correct?

LEG. BISHOP:

It's seeking a uniformed set of data, but we recognize in the bill that it may come from two sources; one is from the individual agency, the second source is from the PSAP or the dispatching agency, usually a PSAP, not always.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But in the first RESOLVED it talks about MedCom and FireCom; would you enlighten us what that is?

LEG. BISHOP:

Those are •• if I may. Those are dispatching agencies along with PSAPs are dispatching agencies, so we're asking the people that dispatch to provide information about a call. And we're also in the next RESOLVED clause, the second RESOLVED clause, asking the responding agency for data.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I realize that.

LEG. BISHOP:

And the reason for that is that some of them only keep half the information and you don't get a full picture.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. Is MedCom and FireCom the County PSAP?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes? Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. If a department, whether it's an ambulance or a fire department, is already reporting to MedCom and FireCom now; will this bill change that in any way what they're reporting? Have you added things that are normally reported to ••

LEG. BISHOP:

You're getting the full picture of a call if we •• if all of this data is collected, from the moment the call comes in to the moment the patient arrives at the hospital, including who the first responder is. Some of that data is not collected in one place and so it's seeking from the two places to combine the data to get the full picture.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I have departments now that say they're reporting to FireCom/MedCom now.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Have we added anything to what they're reporting to?

LEG. BISHOP:

Since I don't know exactly what they're reporting, it may do that. But I know that the ultimate outcome is the complete picture of the call from start to finish.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. BISHOP:

And to have that data be collected in a uniform fashion and analyzed by the County's EMS ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

No, I know what you're doing, I'm just trying to get to the nuts and bolts of the issue.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right, I understand.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I don't know, maybe someone from FRES could answer for me. Would this take any ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Bishop, if I could •• Lindsay, I'm sorry; I just want to interrupt. I am sitting here and I'm listening to this and, you know, I've been listening to this discussion for the past two years at the FRES Commission, too. I really plan on calling a special meeting to discuss this bill and this issue, that is what I plan on doing. And making sure that FRES has the appropriate personnel that they need from the department to answer any of these issues, that the FRES Commission is alerted to the fact that we're having a special meeting to discuss this issue, that REMSCO, Dr. Alicandro, whomever has to be will be notified that we're having a special meeting to discuss this issue. Again, the enormity of what is being asked of us to decide here today I really believe deserves that attention.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I appreciate that, Madam Chair, and it's your call on whether to call a special meeting or not, I'm not suggesting that. I came to this meeting today, I met with all my departments, I have a list of questions I want to ask, I want to put on the table; if they can't be answered today, at least they're out there and whenever you have this other meeting they could come back with those answers. And I think that's fair and I'd like to go forward with my questions.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Who are you asking these questions of?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, I'm asking them of the sponsor right now.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right, and I heard him answer some of them and was sort of qualified with some of the responses, but if you're satisfied with having Legislator Bishop answer your questions, go right ahead, ask them.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, the next part that I was about to get to had to do with FRES and I don't know whether they can answer the question now, but I would like an answer to the question, either now or in the future.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. I see that Dave Fischler is here from FRES; Dave, do you want to come forward? And again, I don't mean to put anybody on the spot and you ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Now, why is it that FRES gets to speak and my request that Dr. Alicandro speak is denied; where is the fairness there, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I don't know, I'll get the fair meter out and we can check. Dave, go right ahead.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

If you just want to leave the questions and we'll get back with the answers.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, I think you'd fail on the fair meter ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

LEG. BISHOP:

Because you've failed as the chair to address this issue.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Dave, what I was looking to get, to implement this would we have to upgrade our

FireCom/MedCom system to collect this data?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

We are already doing that in terms of a grant that we receive from New York State to improve our Computer Aided Dispatch System which will allow us to do it. Right now we have a Record Management System that is not adequate to do what is currently required. The new system won't go into place probably for 12 to 18 months. In my budget request, in the year 2005 I had requested additional dispatchers that would be needed more for a call•in system so that we can handle the volume of people who would be meeting the response protocols and also to maintain the data, but in terms of now it would be about 18, 12 to 18 months before we would be able to collect adequate data.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. So we're working on the enhanced computerization to collect this data now.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. In that enhancement, I'm told that right now if you place a call to E•911 it goes to the Police side first, they're all computerized, then they pass it to the fire side or emergency side and we're not computerized or totally computerized on that end?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

We're computerized because we will see the same Enhanced 911 screen. What occurs at that point, we then have to enter the data on that screen into a handwritten document. What the computerization allows us to do is populate the screen automatically on the dispatch side. It doesn't mean that you can't •• it doesn't mean you stop asking the questions because while it indicates where that call is coming from, it doesn't necessarily mean the incident is at that location. So therefore, the same questioning about location of incidence must occur. But the population of the screen will automatically occur doing a handwritten document.

LEG. LINDSAY:

So when you're done with this modernization, the police side and the fire and emergency side will match each other, they'll both have the same technology.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Will have similar technology; not the same, similar.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Does •• well, I won't even ask that because it's on record. That's really all I wanted from FRES, but I did have a couple of other questions for the sponsor. The second ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Dave.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The second RESOLVED talks about information that has to be kept by the EMS agency that could be called upon and, you know, it doesn't have any specific timelines.

LEG. BISHOP:

It's •• Legislator Lindsay, it's an annual reporting requirement and later on in the bill it says that if the data is collected by a third party •• PSAP, FRES, MedCom, FireCom •• what we expect from the agency is just an authorization to release the data.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. The data that we're talking about, and we've heard a great deal of testimony about increasing the record keeping of the respective ambulance agencies or fire departments; isn't a lot of this data already on the State PCR form?

LEG. BISHOP:

It is, indeed, a lot of it is on the State PCR form. The problem with the State PCR is that it seems •• first of all, it's on a four year delay, and this is why I asked that Dr. Alicandro be allowed to speak because she can address that better than I can. And it's my information that I believe that we only get about 60% of the PCRs ultimately; is that right? Where's Dr. Alicandro?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Let's move the tabling motion, please.

LEG. LINDSAY:

No, I've still got the floor, Legislator O'Leary.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You have the floor, Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

So the PCR data is incomplete and ultimately you can't evaluate properly without complete data.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And really the last question of the sponsor, and this goes back to the 2005 Operating Budget, is it not true that we put additional money in for the Regional PSAPs?

LEG. BISHOP:

We did, we put additional money in for their compliance with the new mandates that were anticipated.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:

And it would be on a grant basis.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. We have a motion.

LEG. BISHOP:

On the motion, if I may speak.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

On the motion, Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

And I think that •• I don't know where to begin, if I should rail about the process which is

completely unfair and uninformed and disappointing, frankly. You know, it's one thing •• it's one thing to vote against this bill, and that would be a mistake, but it's another to not even let it have its fair hearing and its fair discussion. And I'm amazed that that data process is allowed to go forward.

And again I will request that Dr. Alicandro be allowed to speak; after all, she's merely the Director of Emergency Services for the Division, for the EMS Division in Suffolk County Department of Health. I would think that you'd want to hear from her, but if the Chair feels that it's more important to vacate the auditorium in time for the next committee, then that's the Chair's choice and I'm disappointed in it; is that the Chair's choice again?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You have the floor, continue.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay. Well, I would like to ask Dr. Alicandro questions, if I may.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And I told you that •• and as Legislator O'Leary reiterated, this resolution is going to be tabled today. And for you to characterize this as not even letting you have a fair hearing and discussion is really supporting my suggestion that we have a full and separate and total hearing on this bill and this issue.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay. Well, I ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And at that time, Dr. Alicandro and whomever she chooses to bring with her can have all the time that they need.

LEG. BISHOP:

That's good.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And that's the plan.

LEG. BISHOP:

Good, excellent. And I'm glad we're going to have that special meeting, I'm disappointed that we couldn't have the full discussion today, but I appreciate that we'll have a special meeting just on this issue, I think it merits that. And I think that it's important that in a •• you know, that we get a full picture of what is occurring.

We are the governing body for a jurisdiction of a million and a half people. There is perhaps no other place in the United States of America that chooses to have an EMS system that is decentralized and volunteer•based, that's our choice; I think it's a good choice, I have no problem with that choice. But I do demand of that system that it operate at its best efficiency. They are taxing the public for tens of millions of dollars, there are lives on the line. And to manage that system without even the data to know what is occurring is a failing of monumental proportions with implications that cost people their lives in some cases. And what we need to do is to centralize the data collection, provide proper analysis and find out where holes are in this system so that the volunteers themselves can manage the system better. That is not an attack on the system itself, that does not mean that we want to end the volunteer system as we know it, but you cannot govern if you don't know what's going on and we need to know what's going on. And that's from a human life perspective.

How about from a fiscal perspective? We provide the insurance on all of these departments, so when they fail and people are harmed or people pass away, it's our County treasury that's on the potential to pay the bill. So there's another issue that we need to consider in this system. So we have an obligation, therefore, to assure that this system operates at it's maximum efficiency and the first step in any management is to know what's going on and that's all this bill seeks to do. And the arguments that it is an unfunded mandate I believe are misplaced. For one thing, what agency would be unwilling to raise the additional funds themselves to cover the cost of knowing what's going on? I mean, how could you not •• how could you manage an agency without knowing what's going on? What town wouldn't do that? And even if they refuse to do it, we have money set aside in our County treasury to do it because, as Legislator Lindsay pointed out, we anticipated that argument.

So there is money to assist in managing this situation and there is a system currently that

operates without fully knowing what is going on, and I think that that is something that we have an obligation to remedy. And that's why I'm very passionate about the issue, I realize that it puts Legislators in a bad position, nobody wants to tell organizations that are volunteer based that •• they're our heroes in the community, they're the ones who are providing a service for free •• that they have to do some things differently. But on the other hand, when you're talking about people's lives, I think it's incumbent upon the County of Suffolk which is responsible for public health and public safety to demand of the system that it provide a full picture of what is occurring. So I oppose the motion to table and urge my colleagues to do so.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you. Thank you, Legislator Bishop. And I do want to say that one thing. Of all the testimony that we heard today, one that I felt was the most compelling was from the Councilwoman from East Hampton who suggested that we engage the people that are in the trenches in finding solutions or finding ways to gather data or to better response times, and I think that that is something that we have an obligation to do.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay, and just to respond to that. If that's directed to me I think I've met that challenge.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, it's not, no.

LEG. BISHOP:

And I would urge my colleagues on this committee to do so as well because I think that you should ask your agencies how they operate and what they would need to comply with this. But you should also, on the other hand, insist that the County be provided a full picture of what's occurring.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. Okay, we have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BISHOP:

Myself.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•1•0•0 Opposed: Legislator Bishop).

Resolution 1890•04 • Authorizing the creation of a Suffolk County Citizens Corp Council to develop and coordinate volunteer programs to assist emergency responders (County Executive). Motion by Legislator O'Leary, second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed?

The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

IR 1985•04 • Naming the new Sixth Precinct in Selden the "Daniel P. Guido Building" (County Executive).

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion by Legislator Bishop. Motion to table by myself.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor of the tabling motion? Opposed?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Opposed.

LEG. BISHOP:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 5•2•0•0 Opposed: Legislators Bishop & Lindsay).

Just to make sure that I said the right thing, I was just told that on 1890, that resolution was approved and not tabled.

-

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

2059•04 • To prevent misuse of Volunteer Ambulance Service in Suffolk County (Bishop). Motion to table.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

Explanation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Explanation?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yep.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

On why I want it tabled?

LEG. LINDSAY:

No.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, of the bill?

LEG. LINDSAY:

On what the bill is.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Bishop, or would you prefer Counsel?

LEG. LINDSAY:

No, Counsel.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Counsel?

MS. KNAPP:

2059 basically allows the imposition of a charge if the volunteer ambulance service is used in other than an emergency situation, I guess that's probably the most succinct way to put it. And I believe it arises out of the use of the system to transport patients or residents and I think that it's most commonly used in some of the adult homes to transport a resident ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Medical to medical.

MS. KNAPP:

Medical to medical; thank you, that's right.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Madam Chairwoman?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Legislator Losquadro?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

In speaking with many of the departments in my district, I have a number of large senior communities in my district, and if someone knows the buzz words they can call. There are instances where departments will show up with an ambulance and somebody already has their bag packed, they have an appointment or they have elective surgery at the hospital; and it's through no fault of the department that they have been called out there, it's through an

individual's misuse of the system. So would this be •• would this charge be imposed on the department?

LEG. BISHOP:

No.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

On whom?

LEG. BISHOP:

No, this comes from the volunteer services, they seek to remedy similar situations of what you're describing.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Who would the charge be imposed on?

LEG. BISHOP:

What you're describing is an individual who is, "abusing the system," this bill seeks to address medical facilities. So let's say they went to an HMO organization, a doctor facility and that facility called for an ambulance in a non•emergency situation to transport the patient and this apparently has occurred enough times that the departments, at least in the my neck of the woods, have complained about it and want something to disincentivize the medical to medical transfer because those facilities that are medical facilities are supposed to use proprietary ambulance services and not the volunteers and there isn't •• we understand that somebody is having a life threatening situation they're going to call for the quickest ambulance or call for both, that's not what this is addressing. It's addressing the elective situation, the convenience situation and the failure of the medical facility to call for the ambulance that they're supposed to which is the proprietary one.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I have a question of the sponsor, through the Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Sure.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Who is it, Legislator Bishop, that would be assessed the fee, the ambulance company?

LEG. BISHOP:

No, the medical facility.

LEG. O'LEARY:

The facility that calls for the service?

LEG. BISHOP:

Right. And the money would be used for a public information campaign on when is the proper time to call for an ambulance so that we don't have situations where people are using the volunteer corps for convenience sake.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Madam Chair?

LEG. BISHOP:

If this is tabled, would this go on to the special meeting agenda?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, the special meeting is just going to be on that one issue.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, I have a question for Counsel.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Are you aware of any kind of State legislation that regulates proprietary ambulances and that might conflict with this resolution?

MS. KNAPP:

That is not an issue I have researched yet, but I certainly can look into it before Tuesday.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Some of my departments have told me that there could be a propriory •• could be a problem with it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. We have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

IR 2074•04 • Accepting a donation of a vehicle to the Suffolk County Police Department (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed?
The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

IR 2091•04 • Requesting Legislative approval of a contract award for management and educational services for the Juvenile Day Reporting Center Program for the Suffolk County Probation Department (County Executive). We are required to have a resolution of this nature when an RFP goes out and there's only one bidder and the contract is in excess of \$20,000. It's my understanding this is for a five year period •• Counsel, is that correct, or Budget Review •• and is the amount like 400,000 plus per year? Is John Desmond still here from Probation? John, if you could just come forward for a moment. Could you tell me why there was only one responder and is the responder the person that is now providing the service?

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

The answer to that is yes, it's the Cornell Cooperative. We had a number of not•for•profits that were interested in it, we had a number of meetings with them, but in the end Cornell was the only one to submit a proposal; and, frankly, I believe it's because we were trying to get a lot for a little.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Counsel?

MS. KNAPP:

I actually •• in answering the one question, you're correct, it is 404,647, but my notes indicate that it's for the period of January 1st to December 31st.

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

Right, it would only ••

MS. KNAPP:

So it's a one year.

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

•• be one year. Normally what happens is the RFP's are then issued or reissued, five years is the absolute maximum that we would go on that, generally it's about two to three years.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you. Is there a motion?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, I'll ••

LEG. O'LEARY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed?

The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

2115•04 • Amending the 2004 Capital Budget and Program to establish an Affordable County Jail Cost Containment Police (replacement of jail facility at Yaphank CP 3008 and improvements to the County Center, Riverhead CP 1643) (County executive). I

have been advised by Budget Review that there are a number of conflicts in this resolution with the offset, so we're going to table. Second by Legislator Kennedy.

All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

2140•04 • To provide funding for Crime Stoppers through the sale of surplus vehicles (O'Leary). Legislator O'Leary?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion.

LEG. BISHOP:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

On the motion, Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

I have a question of Counsel.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And wait a minute, I just need a second.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. BISHOP:

This is just for this year, correct?

MS. KNAPP:

No, it was not intended to be. And that question came up in the context as to why it was not a budget amendment; it wasn't a budget amendment because it's intended to be an ongoing resolution.

LEG. BISHOP:

And you could pass a resolution, just a simple resolution of this Legislature to create a dedicated funding source in a budget? That is not my history here. I know that we had park district resolutions that ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I suppose from the appearance at the table that you wish to speak on this resolution?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Go right ahead.

LEG. BISHOP:

No, I just asked a question of Counsel.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right; are your satisfied with the response from Counsel and don't need anymore?

LEG. BISHOP:

All I got was mumble so far.

MS. KNAPP:

It is a policy resolution to set up a policy for the County to follow in the future in terms of putting together budgets.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay, that's not an answer, though. I mean, is it legal, does it have force of law? Can we set up dedicated funds through ten vote resolutions, not even Local Laws or let alone referendums that dedicate a funding source and bind future Legislatures and Executives?

MS. KNAPP:

It does not set up a dedicated fund.

LEG. BISHOP:

No.

MS. KNAPP:

It does not set up a dedicated fund.

LEG. BISHOP:

It says the first \$50,000 of car sales are dedicated to that purpose, right?

MS. KNAPP:

But if in any year there are no car sales then there is no money.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

MS. KNAPP:

So, I mean, it's not •• it is not a dedicated fund.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, if there's no economic activity there would be no sales tax money and that's certainly dedicated fund, so that's not the criteria for what a dedicated fund is, is it?

MS. KNAPP:

A dedicated fund can only be created pursuant to the Local Finance ••

LEG. BISHOP:

Correct.

MS. KNAPP:

•• Law and the General Municipal Law. No, I mean, we can certainly •• we can argue about whether it's legally sufficient and I think that, you know, lawyers do that on a regular basis. And as you know, I very often say that with ten votes and the County Executive's signature it enjoys that presumption, and if somebody certainly challenges it then we would find out whether or not it is indeed legally correct. However, it does not set up a dedicated fund and it does establish a policy for the County.

MR. ZWIRN:

Madam Chair, the County Executive is supportive of Legislator O'Leary's initiative here and the policy that it would set, but we were trying to be consistent where the money would come from. We objected when the County Clerk wanted to segregate funds for certain projects and revenue coming in to the County Clerk's project, Legislator Kennedy is well aware of our arguments there, and we're just trying to be consistent with this. If we can come up with an offset for the \$50,000, the County Executive would extend a hand and try to work with Legislator O'Leary and the rest of the Legislature to try to come up with the amount of money that he is seeking from Crime Stoppers.

LEG. BISHOP:

On the motion? What about this offset for this year? I mean, my objection is the ongoing nature that it's ••

MR. ZWIRN:

Right. We're talking about for this year but in the future our •• the County Executive's position has been •• as you are well aware, we've argued this not just with Crime Stoppers •• that any time there's a revenue stream that comes in, it should go to the General Fund or one of the funds in the County that that not be segregated for a particular purpose, and that if this item is going to be funded in the future that it become a line item in the budget.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator O'Leary.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Madam Chair, my understanding is that this would not set a precedent, that this has been previously accomplished in a different County Westchester County, a similar type language for a similar type provision and similar type funding. The question of the offset that you raise, are you saying that if we approve this and \$50,000 of the sale of surplus vehicles goes to Crime Stoppers, that we would be required to get an offset to put \$50,000 in the General Fund?

MR. ZWIRN:

No, what we're •• first of all, the Deputy County Attorney mentioned to me that the Charter of Westchester may be different from the Charter of Suffolk County, so that may be permissible in Westchester but not in Suffolk.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Uh•huh.

MR. ZWIRN:

What we would suggest is that in the future that this be put in, if it's a worth while cause and the County Executive deems it to be, that he would work with the Legislature in putting money aside •• \$50,000 is what you suggested, it seems like a reasonable number in light of what the testimony was here today •• but he would rather do that, you know, as a budgetary line in there as opposed to taking a revenue stream that's coming in. Like for park fees that would come in to be funded to repair the parks, we take that money and it goes to the General Fund and then the Legislature and the County Executive together dedicate money for repairs and things like that, so they don't take a particular revenue stream. As Counsel suggested, you may have a year where we're giving radios to the animal rights group, S•C•P•C•A, if you give radios to them, you know, you take •• and the County Legislature, you know, likes to help out worthwhile organizations that you think get rid of a lot of the surplus property to worthwhile organizations and not have the money necessary, this way you'd have money that is in the budget that's real money that you know is constant every year. So we're supportive, we're not trying to be argumentative here, we're trying to work together to try to achieve something that

we think is worth while and we'd like, you know, to work with you on it.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, I'm happy to hear that the County Executive is supportive of this resolution, but is not the sale of surplus vehicle money already anticipated in the budget?

MR. ZWIRN:

It's not for a particular purpose. If that money doesn't come in, other money that does come in from somewhere else that may be unanticipated will cover the expenses.

LEG. O'LEARY:

But this is specifically monies revenue generated as a result of sale of surplus vehicles. As Legislative Counsel alluded to, if there are no surplus vehicles there will be no monies afforded to the Crime Stoppers for purposes of their funding.

MR. ZWIRN:

I don't think that will be the purpose of ••

LEG. O'LEARY:

No, it's not.

MR. ZWIRN:

The Legislature would want to fund Crime Stoppers on a regular basis as long as they continue to do good work whether the money comes in from surplus vehicles or not; this way they'd be guaranteed that money, it would be much more secure and it would be •• just in the County Executive's part, it would just be just a clearer way to do it, that's all.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. So my understanding then is that the County Executive is supportive of establishing this policy, it's just a question of the funding mechanisms?

MR. ZWIRN:

Not the policy but the funding.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yeah.

MR. ZWIRN:

We're in favor of what you're trying to do ••

LEG. O'LEARY:

Right.

MR. ZWIRN:

Just the road to get there is a little bit different, but we agree with you. I'm not trying to be argumentative, I'm not trying to make the meeting go longer, I really did not want to come up here to have to say anything after this long meeting today. But if we could table it for one cycle and maybe do a corrected copy and have everything worked out by the end of the year, that could all be done.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, if he's that supportive, perhaps he'll give me a CN on Tuesday.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, perhaps that could be arranged.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, good, I'm happy to hear that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

When would this policy come into effect, with the 2005 auctions?

LEG. O'LEARY:

There's not •• Counsel, the intent of this is to be effective immediately?

MS. KNAPP:

All resolutions are effective immediately unless there's some other date in it, but I think as a practical matter it would be unlikely that in the month of December there's an auction, so it would probably be 2005.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. The only thing why I ask that, and it's a suggestion to the sponsor, and I would be most happy to cosponsor it, if you wanted to change the funding. I mean, we heard testimony at the last meeting, we still have I think over a million dollars left over in pay•as•you•go for '04, we could pass a resolution to get them \$50,000 this year.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And what about in future years?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, in future years, why wouldn't you want to address it as a budget item?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Uh•huh. All right, I'll •• you know what? As the sponsor, I appreciate the questions raised here today and I'll make a motion to table and we'll address this issue with the Executive's Office as well as Legislative Counsel.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second, we have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor?

LEG. BISHOP:

I'd like to second the table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You would like to second the table?

LEG. BISHOP:

Please.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Absolutely, that is seconded by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

IR 2143•04 • Adopting Local Law No. 2004, a Local Law establishing new standards and controls for alarm systems that require Police Department response (County Executive). We need to have a public hearing. That resolution is tabled; motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed?
It is tabled for a public hearing (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

Sense 79•2004 • Memorializing Resolution requesting the State of New York to enact legislation permitting the county of suffolk to allocate surcharge funds on cellular phone accounts for County police purposes (Carpenter).

LEG. BISHOP:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

On the motion.

LEG. BISHOP:

Isn't this money currently going to the E•911 system?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, it goes to the State.

LEG. BISHOP:

I thought we get E•911 money.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We get some but not the 70 cents that's attached.

LEG. BISHOP:

Maybe this should be •• you've come up with a good idea of funding, but maybe we shouldn't •

• instead of automatically putting it into the police, we should look at our •• since we're going to have a meeting about 911 ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Emergency responders?

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, tell you what; when the State passes it, I'll be happy to do that.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, maybe we should have the right request, though, I mean, and it would help ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right, since it's a Sense, we can change that language and still have it be available for voting on Tuesday. So I will change that to not just police but for emergency response; okay? Thank you. So we have a motion and a second to approve with that change, that will be done before Tuesday. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

We stand adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 P.M.*).

***Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson
Public Safety & Public Information Committee.***

_ _ • ***Denotes Spelled Phonetically***